



THE INDEPENDENT

Tuesday 23 December 1997

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Pretty. But £39m each, second best and with no enemy. You've just bought 232 of them



Defence of the realm: Michael Jarvis and his sister Claire, admiring a model at Garrards, the crown jewellers, in Regent Street, of the Eurofighter, the warplane for which formal agreement to build was signed yesterday in Bonn. Michael and Claire's father, Tim, of Garrards, originated the idea of making a 1/15th scale solid silver replica of the plane. The 13kg, 33-inch long working model is valued at £75,000 and is linked through a computer system that manoeuvres the plane. *Eurofighter deal, page 10* Photograph: Brian Harris

Farmers facing early retirement as beef industry is forced to shrink

The Government signalled a big scaling down of the British beef industry last night amid falling prices and demand. This could mean early retirement deals for farmers wanting to get out of the business. *Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent, heard the Agriculture Minister spell out his vision to MPs.*

Subsidies to the beef industry of £3.4bn over this year and next could not be maintained, Jack Cunningham told the Commons last night.

The Agriculture Minister promised "exceptional, one-off help" amounting to £85m over the coming year while at the same time announcing an inquiry, headed by a Lord of Appeal, into the history of BSE.

Britain should join a European scheme already operating in 10 countries to offer pay-offs to farmers to quit, he said. Too much beef was being produced and the industry must be made viable.

Officials said Britain would use its presidency of the European Union in the next six months to push for progress on large-scale reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy to bring down subsidies. The CAP had been useful when it was set up to feed Europe after the war, they said, but now it was encouraging overproduction.

Farming unions and other bodies would be consulted about the proposals, which would take between a year and 18 months to implement.

All European Union nations apart from the UK, the Netherlands, Luxembourg,

Sweden and Austria had already joined the early retirement scheme, which is 50 per cent funded by Europe.

Mr Cunningham said the European Commission had accepted that restructuring was vital, and had already proposed radical changes. The British government believed it should start now. "There is over-supply of beef throughout Europe, and a long-term decline in the consumption of beef everywhere."

"Our long-term aim should be to reduce the scale of the subsidy to producers."

Mr Cunningham warned

beef farmers that they should plan on the basis that major changes were coming. There would be fewer farmers, but consumers, the beef industry and the environment would all benefit in the long term.

The Government would use £60m from an EU compensation scheme designed to offset the effects of the strong pound – something for which farmers had been pressing – to help hill farmers, he said.

The inquiry, which would be non-statutory and would not take evidence from ministers, would be headed by Lord Justice Phillips. It would look at

how BSE and new variant CJD emerged, and at the action taken in response to it up to March 1996, when far-reaching measures were announced by the last government. It would report by the end of next year.

Michael Jack, opposition agriculture spokesman, responded: "This is a miserable little statement given by a minister exhibiting Scrooge-like tendencies. It will do nothing to enhance the safety of British beef and farmers will see it for what it is. He has lost out to the Treasury and failed British agriculture."

Beef crisis, page 7

The loneliest children at Christmas

Christmas is for children, they say. But this year, thousands of Albanian children are living a lonely and loveless existence in stark orphanages. While British children look forward to a glut of toys and entertainment, some British volunteers are trying to give these abandoned young Europeans a future.

The outside of the children's home is a slum. Piles of rotting rubbish lie alongside broken cars, rolls of wire, old hubcaps. Stray dogs, some covered with sores, forage for food. There is a strong smell of sewage.

Not that the 52 abandoned children would know anything about their surroundings. They have never been outside in their lives. They spend their

time in five filthy, over-heated rooms, some three to a cot, deathly pale with lack of sunlight – the curtains are never drawn and the windows never opened for fear of "germs" – and they stand in sinister silence, many just rocking from side to side or picking the walls, staring at the door and waiting for a human being to come in and, if they're lucky, pat them on the head. Up to the age of three the cot is their home.

Except for the attentions of British volunteers, no one comes to pick them up or talk to them. They are fed and watered – and that's it. It is an absolutely heartbreaking scene. I went with my cousin, Caroline Cook and her husband Colonel Mark Cook, who set up the charity Hope and Homes for Children three years ago, to see the opening of a new home in Durres, Albania, in which these children will have a chance of a more stimulating life – and, hopefully, a chance of becoming reunited with the parents who abandoned them.

You cannot resist picking up the children, though they hardly know how to smile or hold out their arms to anyone, so rarely do they experience the warmth of a hug or the security of a cuddle. And once you pick them up they like it. The moment you put them down they spring into agonising life, screaming, rocking, hanging their heads against the

he was stationed there during the war in Bosnia. The organisation now has homes in Lipik, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Eritrea.

"There was a playroom, but it was always locked. The toys were put on high shelves or locked away in cupboards. It was just too difficult for the staff to get them out and clear them up."

Sometimes the children would be taken out of their cots and sat for hours in front of a huge television and if they moved they were ticked off. Now, with the help of our British volunteers, the children get a little more stimulation, but with the cots jammed up against each other, there just isn't space to get them out, teach them to walk or let them run around."

The new home is vast, full of light, with playgrounds, a soft-

ball room, proper kitchens and laundry. It was opened last week: the bronze plaque, to thank members of Britain's Rotary Clubs which have put in £150,000 to get the orphanage set up and have promised £300,000 more, was made of the melted down figures of Stalin and Lenin. The Rotarians also provided 50 teddy-bears from the memorials to Diana, Princess of Wales.

Albania has had a dreadful time. Never a prosperous country, its economy was devastated by Socialist rule, and then further damaged by the great pyramid selling scam. A new Socialist government is now in power after a short and bloody civil war, but although the curfew has been lifted, there is still anarchy.

"Setting up the home was a nightmare which has taken two-and-a-half years fighting with corrupt politicians, bureaucracy and armed squatters," says Mark. British volunteers find it hard to take. Three live in a one bedroomed flat with no telephone

and spasmodic electricity. After 4pm they are virtually confined to the flat as it is too dangerous to go out at night, even accompanied. Some find conditions unbearable and more volunteers are desperately needed.

Most of the children, unless they are adopted or reunited with their families or looked after by Hope and Homes, face a future in mental hospitals because they become so apathetic and institutionalised there is no other way they can live.

Caroline says: "We want to have a high turnover of children and encourage parents to come back and get to know their children again. Sometimes we've taken a mother back with her child to her parents who simply don't want to know. We then ask if we could have half an hour in private with the daughter, and leave the baby with the disapproving grandparents. Often when we get back they are dancing their grandchild on their knee."

● *Hope and Homes for Children, East Chylife, Salisbury, SP3 4LZ (telephone 01722 790111)*

INSIDE TODAY

One fat lady confesses: I wish I had killed my father

PAGE 13

Feed your young well: let them eat crisps and cake

HEALTH, PAGE 11

Exclusive: Interview with a banana

THE EYE



TODAY'S NEWS

Rethink over Al Fayed

Mohamed Al Fayed, the Harrods store chief, has been told that his long-standing application for British citizenship is to be reconsidered. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, announced that he would no longer contest a ruling by the Court of Appeal that applications by Mr Fayed and his brother Ali had been unlawfully turned down. *Page 3*

Disabled in No 10 protest

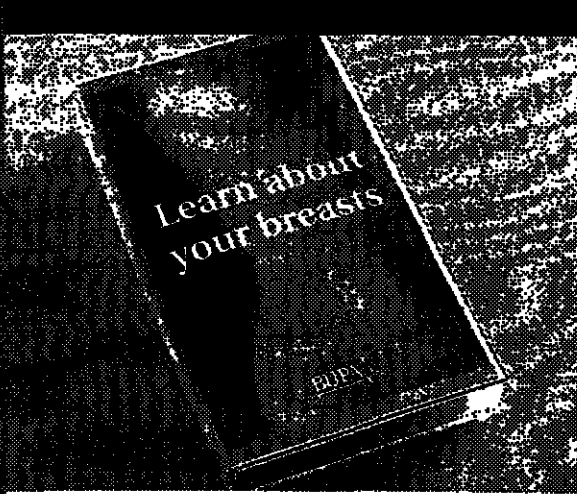
The Prime Minister denied that he was proposing un-Christian cuts to disabled people's benefits as protesters threw paint at Downing Street's gates. *Page 6*



TELEVISION The Eye, page 12
CROSSWORDS Page 28 and
The Eye, page 9
WEATHER The Eye, page 10

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COLUMN ONE

Santa goes gunning for Christmas booty

Years of dispensing Christmas cheer and giving presents to all the little children have finally taken their toll on Santa Claus. This year, instead of arriving laden with gifts he has made several appearances at stores in Germany wielding only a Kalashnikov.

Shopkeepers believe that a heavily armed bandit disguised as St Nick has robbed several shops in southern Germany, while another Santa tried to sexually molest an employee at an electronics company near Erfurt.

Newspapers have published numerous accounts – and photographs for those who are not quite sure what Santa looks like – of the robberies, but authorities complain that the thieves often escape because they can quickly blend into the holiday decorations and disappear after their hold-ups.

"A man in a Santa outfit with a long white beard stood politely in line and when he got to the cashier, pulled out a Kalashnikov rifle and started shooting," said Edmund Hart, whose convenience store in Aschaffenburg was robbed. "My clerks were too shocked to do anything but hand him the money," said Mr Hart, who rushed to his shop from a Christmas party to find shattered displays and 18 bullet holes in the wall. "He spoke perfect German without any trace of a dialect, demanded the money and started to shoot."

Mr Hart said customers fled from the shop and the bandit escaped without trace. The shop assistants are being treated for injuries to their ears.

Police believe the same Father Christmas was responsible for a similar attack two days later at a supermarket near Nuremberg where the thief made off with 5,000 marks (£1,740). They have two theories for the San-



Christmas fear: Kalashnikovs have been used by Santa outlaws

ta Claus crime wave; some amateur crooks find it hard to raise enough money for presents, others take advantage of the holidays as useful cover for the burglaries.

Werner Veith, a spokesman for the Munich police department, said: "Someone running down the street at this time of year in a Santa outfit isn't going to cause much suspicion."

He said that a Father Christmas had stolen more than 100,000 marks from a department store several years ago but was never caught. "With the Santa mask, he just blended right in. We have these sorts of robberies during the Christmas season and during the winter carnival season when many people are on the streets wearing streets and masks and costumes."

But Christmas is not just a time for giving, some unfortunate Santas have been on the receiving end as well.

One Father Christmas who was handing out chocolates in the northern town of Oldenburg was approached by a man who also wanted some. At first the Santa refused but, after arguing reluctantly that it was meant for the children, he gave him a piece. "The man then expressed his gratitude by punching the Santa in the face so hard that he had to be taken to hospital," according to a subsequent newspaper report.

— Kate Watson-Smyth

PEOPLE



Family man: Winston Davis with his daughter Jessica before the accident that left him paralysed

MP in mercy plea for paralysed Test star

The former West Indies Test cricketer Winston Davis has been paralysed in a freak accident while helping to rebuild a church on his home island in the Caribbean. The 39-year-old fast bowler suffered the same injuries as the actor Christopher Reeve and doctors say he will never walk again.

His case has been taken up by Wyre Forest Labour MP David Lock who is pleading with the Government to waive rules which threaten to bar Mr Davis from coming to live with his English wife Patricia, 38, and their daughter Jessica, 5, in Bewdley, near Worcester, because he would require state support.

Mr Davis played county cricket for Northampton and Glamorgan besides appearing in 15 Tests and around 50 one-day internationals.

The accident occurred while Mr Davis was carrying out some voluntary land-clearing work for a new church in St Vincent. He had climbed into a tree to saw off some branches when he was struck by a falling branch from above and fell to the ground.

He was eventually flown to a specialist American

trauma hospital in Palm Beach, Florida, where he spent five weeks on a ventilator and has already clocked up \$650,000 (£400,000) in medical bills.

Mr Davis had been due to leave his Caribbean job as supervisor with a shipping company next spring so he could live with his family in England. He and his wife have been married for seven years.

His application to the British High Commission in New York for entry clearance into Britain is currently being considered. But such an plea would normally be refused because Mr Davis's injuries mean he would inevitably depend on state support.

Mr Lock said: "In normal circumstances it's highly likely such an entry application would be refused. But Winston spent 15 years playing cricket over here providing great entertainment for the public and paying considerable amounts of tax and national insurance. I'm strongly backing his case and I hope a compassionate response from the Government will allow the family to be together in this country."

— Richard Smith

Gucci's former lover loses cruelty appeal

Penny Armstrong, the former lover of the fashion tycoon Paolo Gucci, yesterday had her sentence for causing unnecessary suffering to horses increased after magistrates rejected an appeal.

Ms Armstrong, 38, a former stable girl who has two children by the millionaire, was found guilty of cruelty to 11 Arab horses on Gucci's former stud farm near Crawley, West Sussex, last October.

She was prosecuted by the RSPCA, banned from keeping horses for five years and ordered to pay £5,640 costs and £15,573 compensation.

Magistrates at Chichester Crown Court yesterday rejected her appeal and added an extra four month suspended sentence over each cruelty charge. But she was granted an additional 12 months, on top of the year allowed in October, to pay costs and compensation.

The RSPCA was called to the £2.5m estate last January after lo-



cal saw a collapsed horse in a field. Inspectors discovered several more starving and emaciated horses. Some were so weak they could hardly walk.

David Buck, prosecuting at the court case, said the animals were suffering from diarrhoea and listlessness. One filly had to be put down immediately, a vet estimated that she had not eaten for two weeks. Eleven others were removed to an animal welfare centre for intensive care but six of them failed to recover.

The horses were part of a group of 100 kept at the stud at Rusper. Ms Armstrong had been living in a house associated with the stud.

— Kate Watson-Smyth

Birthday is a treat for statisticians

Ben Oakhill's seventh birthday will be a medical milestone. His celebrations a week today will herald the countdown for an international statistical marathon which will end as the millennium gets under way.

Ben, of Patchway, near Bristol, was the first child of more than 14,000 to take part in the Children of the Nineties – the world's largest study of child health and development.

Based at Bristol University's Institute of Child Health, it has been charting the progress of 14,893 expectant mothers in the former county of Avon through their children's births to their seventh birthdays. The multi-million pound project is the core

of a study also involving Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Greece and the Isle of Man. It was scheduled to begin in April 1991, but Ben's premature birth – when he weighed 2lb 6oz – in December gave it an early start.

His mother, Margaret, and the other volunteer mothers regularly filled in questionnaires about their lifestyle and health, to build a massive database of life and health in the Nineties. Now the research team is planning full medical check-ups of more than 14,000 children at special clinics starting next August, involving more than 100 researchers and support staff. The data should be ready for analysis early in 2000.

UPDATE

COMPUTERS

Heavyweight laptops pose risk

Thousands of professionals who use laptop computers could be facing a wide range of health problems, according to a report published yesterday. Workers who use the equipment regularly report headaches, eye, back and arm pain, public service union Unison found in a survey of careers advisers. The union said careers advisers have to carry equipment weighing about 20lb if they included printers and papers, according to Keith Sonnet, head of local government at Unison.

Mr Sonnet said careers advisers could not be expected to "carry their offices around from place to place". He added: "The only way to avoid injuries is to have personal computers provided in offices, and in the case of careers advisers in schools and colleges. Where this is not a viable option, laptops should only be used after employers have carried out thorough risk assessments."

— Barrie Clement, Labour Editor

TRAVEL

Airport chaos worsens



Delays at British airports are getting worse, with package holiday passengers bearing the brunt of the hold-ups, the latest figures show. Only 51 per cent of charter flights took off or landed on time, or no more than 15 minutes late, in the July-September 1997 period. Of 10 major airports, only Gatwick had lower average delays last summer than in July-September 1996, the Civil Aviation Authority reported. The average summer 1997 delay at the 10 airports was 39 minutes for charter flights and 12 minutes for scheduled flights. This compared with figures of 38 minutes for charters and 10 minutes for scheduled in July-September 1996. A total of 51 per cent of charter flights and 72 per cent of scheduled ones took off on time last summer compared with 52 per cent and 78 per cent respectively in 1996.

The average delay on charter flights at Gatwick in summer 1997 was 50 minutes compared with 54 minutes in summer 1996, while scheduled flight delays at the West Sussex airport fell from 17 minutes to 16 minutes. Of the other airports surveyed, Manchester had the longest average charter flight delays in summer 1997, rising from 34 minutes to 38 minutes. Birmingham airport had the highest percentage of flights on time or no more than 15 minutes late – 83 per cent for scheduled and 65 per cent for charters. But both these figures were down on 1996 ones. Despite an average improvement in delays, Gatwick still had the lowest number (41 per cent) of charter flights on time in July-September 1997.

EDUCATION

Blunkett aims cash at literacy

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, yesterday announced details of £59m funding for education authorities to meet ambitious literacy targets. The Government has guaranteed that by 2002, 80 per cent of 11-year-olds will achieve the level of literacy expected for their age.

In this summer's tests, 63 per cent of 11-year-olds gained the required grades in English, up from 58 per cent last year. But only 57 per cent of 11-year-old boys compared with 69 per cent of girls made the expected grade. This trend was continued for older children, with 66 per cent of girls achieving the expected level or better by the age of 14, compared with 47 per cent for boys. Many authorities have fewer than 40 per cent of pupils at the required standard.

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.46	Italy (lira)	2,837
Austria (schillings)	20.24	Japan (yen)	214.92
Belgium (francs)	59.51	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.32	Netherlands (guilders)	3.24
Cyprus (pounds)	0.84	Norway (kroner)	11.87
Denmark (kroner)	11.04	Portugal (escudos)	293.21
France (francs)	9.63	Spain (pesetas)	243.22
Germany (marks)	2.88	Sweden (kroner)	12.70
Greece (drachmei)	457.26	Switzerland (francs)	2.33
Hong Kong (\$)	12.51	Turkey (lira)	325.378
Ireland (punts)	1.10	USA (\$)	1.62

Source: Thomas Cook
Rates for indication purposes only

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



FIVE CARS. THREE HOUSES. TWO MARRIAGES.
ONE PEN.



Guaranteed for a lifetime. Available from jewellers, stationers, pen specialists and leading department stores.

CROSS
SINCE 1846

Straw to reconsider Fayed citizenship request

Mohamed al Fayed, the owner of Harrods and Tory party *bête noire*, took an important step towards gaining British citizenship yesterday. The move, says Jason Bennett, Crime Correspondent, follows years of campaigning and bitter behind-the-scenes fighting.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, yesterday announced that he was reconsidering the applications for British naturalisation by the millionaire Fayed brothers, Mohamed and Ali. His move follows a decision to quash an on-going challenge, made by the previous Home Secretary, Michael Howard,

against a Court of Appeal ruling that the Egyptian-born brothers' application had been treated unfairly.

Mr Straw also revealed that in future all rejected applicants for British passports will be given reasons why they have been turned down. This is expected to affect between 200 to 300 people each year, most of whom would have been refused for reasons such as criminal convictions, national security risks, or being an unsuitable character. Last year nearly 5,000 people were refused citizenship and told why – mostly because they failed the basic criteria – while 43,000 gained British passports.

On the question of the Fayed brothers Mr Straw said he would decide their applications "on their merits". Home Office officials will now have to draw up new rec-

ommendations and reports for Mr Straw, who is not allowed to see advice given to previous governments.

While the decision, which is expected to be made in several months, is not a foregone conclusion it is being tipped in favour of the Fayed.

Mohamed al Fayed yesterday described the announcement as "an important step forward". "Having lived here for more than 30 years and done my best to play a positive part in the life of this country, I should like to share the nationality of my four British children," he said.

Mr Fayed remains a hugely controversial figure because of his role in the "cash-for-questions" affair. His allegations that he paid thousands of pounds stuffed in plain brown envelopes to Tory MPs to ask ques-

tions on his behalf in the House of Commons led to the downfall of former ministers Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith and set off the "Tory sleaze" saga.

Ali Fayed first applied for citizenship in 1993, followed by his older brother in 1994. Although applications normally take nine months to process it was not until March 1995 that they were told of their rejection. The reason for the refusal appears to go back to 1985, when the brothers won the battle with Louro's Tiny Rowland for the House of Fraser group, which includes Harrods.

A 1990 Department of Trade and Industry report into the affair described the brothers as liars, in relation to their family background, their early business life and their wealth. However, both the Serious

Fraud Office and the Crown Prosecution Service decided there was insufficient evidence to take action.

By 1994, an angry Mr Fayed, his citizenship application apparently stalled, went public over "cash-for-questions". He later sparked the scandal over a stay at the Paris Ritz hotel by Jonathan Aitken, the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

There was also controversy over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, who died in a Paris car crash with her son, Dodi. Mr Fayed said that a nurse at the hospital where she was treated had passed on her "final words and requests" to him – a claim strongly denied by the hospital.

The brothers contribute millions to the Exchequer and are generous to charities, as well as donating £250,000 to the Tory party.

IN TOMORROW'S
INDEPENDENT

24-PAGE EYE



How the Teletubbies rule the world (despite the Spice Girls)

Diana: a nation's idolatry

The late, late gift guide

Jumbo crossword

Complete holiday TV

How to turn your home into a star of the movies

Vacating your home for film crews while trying to gear up for Christmas may sound crazy. But, says Clare Comer, there is good money in this madness.

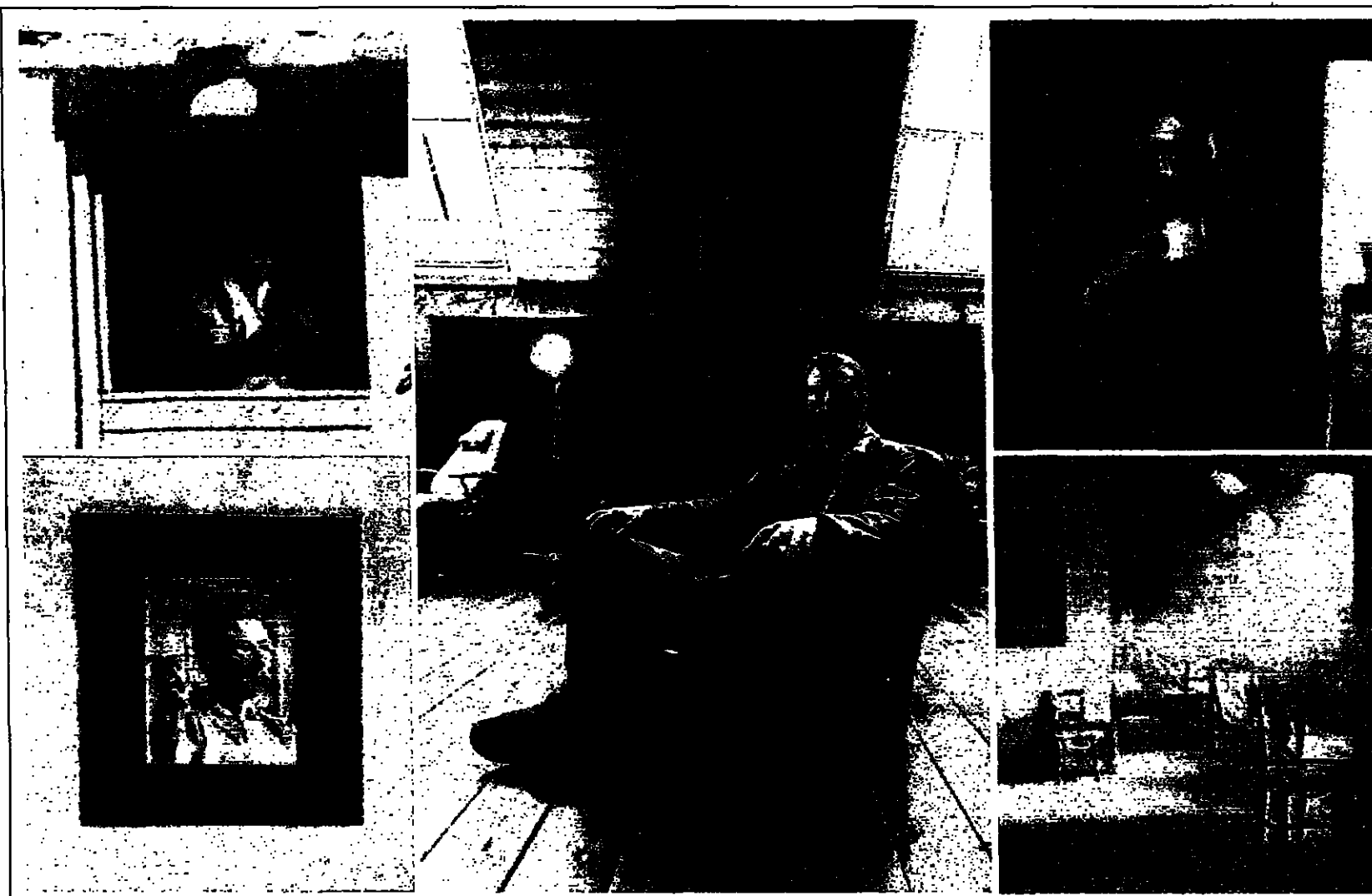
It is the equivalent of a winter Wimbledon. Just as owners of properties in SW19 cash in on the championships, people can make a bonus by renting out their home to film companies and advertising agencies in the run-up to Christmas.

Getting your house on the books of a locations agency can be a nice little earner whatever the time of year, but for those willing to put up with the inconvenience of lights, cameras and action in December, it will wipe out any seasonal overdraft at a stroke.

There is, of course, a risk that your home won't look quite the same afterwards. Take Caroline Cooper, an interior designer, who let her house in Blackheath, south-east London, to be used as a set for *The Knack* a year ago. "The carpet had to be relaid because fake blood was put all over it when Dennis Waterman was killed on our landing," she said. "Only this week a new carpet was fitted and it still does not look right."

But Mrs Cooper is not deterred. Last Friday she was called up by an agency looking for a location for a British Airways advertisement to be filmed this morning. She agreed – and is £400 the richer as a result. "You have to put up with the hassle and inconvenience," she said. "That's what you get paid for... It's nice to have a little bonus you weren't expecting."

Mrs Cooper's house is called Pagoda and looks very much like one. The Chinese features mean it is in demand about once a month, but there are no set rules about what film companies are looking for. James Lind-



In the frame: Tony Relph in his Clerkenwell loft apartment (Photograph: Tom Pilsten). Both owner and location were featured in a Dulux television commercial

said: "Requirements are very varied. We're not always looking for properties like Chatsworth... Sometimes people come to us and say: 'We're looking for a grotty little semi to shoot something that would be found in a grotty little semi'. It would be no use sending them off to Buckingham Palace."

Size is often the main consideration and unique features – such as peculiar shaped windows, outrageous decor and impressive views – help, too. Fees vary according to the scale of the invasion and the length of time the job takes, but owners can earn up to £1,500-a-day for a feature film. From the film company's point of view it works out far cheaper than hiring a studio and building a set, and the effect is more authentic.

Sometimes the location owners can end up with more than they bargained for. Tony Relph, a 35-year-old carpenter, registers his loft apartment in Clerkenwell, London, with an agency called Amazing Space. When an advertising agency came to check out his home for a Dulux commercial, it ended up filming not only the location but its owner.

Tiffany Parish, who owns Amazing Space, negotiated royalty and location hire fees for Mr Relph, who was flown to Spain for four days' filming, as well as acting in his own home. His girlfriend, Sharon, a make-up artist, was signed up to do the hair and make-up – turning what should have been a morning's filming into a triple whammy, totting up more than £4,000.

Memory drugs and oxygen bars: the brave new world that awaits us

In five years' time, might your Christmas shopping be more easily done via your television, hooked up to the Internet? Will you take drugs to help you remember important information? Charles Arthur, Science Editor, asks the futurologists what lies ahead.

Marian Salzman is paid to look into the future, but unlike somewhat cheaper forecasters who gaze into crystal balls, she is interested in really big numbers: the ways in which billions of pounds will be spent in Western society.

Ms Salzman, director of the Brand Futures group at the New York advertising agency Young & Rubicam, studies trends like they were going out of fashion, to find the ones which are coming into fashion.

She was one of the first to predict that oxygen bars – a fad idea which started in Canada and is now being franchised around the world – could catch on. Why? Because it plays to fears about urban pollution, despite doctors' insistence that breathing pure oxygen is no real help. It's the psychological boost that customers like.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

5 years from now

Oxygen bars – offering drinks and gas for the high-speed set
Nutraceuticals – staple foods with added vitamins and minerals
Digital TV with many more channels
Male birth control pills
Remote-control surgery
"E-cash" – electronic cash you can spend on the Internet

10 years from now

Flat-screen wall-size TVs which are also videophones
Animals as organ donors for humans
Artificial wombs
Computers and TVs you can instruct by speech
Transnational "families" based on shared interests rather than blood
Pharmaceutical cures for failing memories and energy

Never

The death of television
The paperless office
Virtual war
Legalised human cloning
No more adversarial politics
The end of the road for the petroleum-fuelled car

technologies are bringing. "Wide, flat wall screens will be very commonplace in about 10 years," predicts Ian Pearson, British Telecom's in-house futurologist. "Digital TV is driving that: I think in a while you'll hardly see any normal TVs being sold."

The real change will come in communications. "In 10 years you will be able to talk to the computer. TV and so on, and they will understand you. You'll say: 'I want to watch a documentary' and it'll say: 'There's one about a polar bear'."

At the London-based Henley Centre, Sian Davies, a director, agrees: "TV will offer more choice in terms of channels, but organisations like the BBC won't be pushed out by it.

Yet some changes aren't inevitable. Despite the repeated wishes for the paperless office, that is never likely to happen, says Pearson. "If paper was invented today it would be hailed as the biggest breakthrough of the 20th century," he said. "There are so many things it's really useful for, that you can't imagine using screens to do."

But Ms Salzman also sees other, deeper forces at work. She recently moved back to the US from Europe. "When I was in the UK I was amazed by the traditional structures of work and home. Now, back in the States, we now have what we call 24-7 working and living – it's 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We manage our time so that we optimise our productivity."

SIEMENS

The new
Siemens S10.
The best
business
phone in
the world.



The Siemens S10 has just been voted the Best Business Mobile in the World by *Computer*, the European communications magazine. It comes with 10 hours talktime or 100 hours standby, the world's first colour display and a 20 second voice memo function. So, if you want a better Christmas present this year, ask for the best business phone in the world. Better quality, better clarity, better features, better prices. Better. Talkology from Siemens.

Scargill defiant after calls to quit from miners' charity



Scargill: Court threat

Arthur Scargill yesterday threatened the Charity Commissioners with legal proceedings after they accused him of misconduct. **Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, finds the miners' leader insisting that he has always acted in the best interests of his members.**

The Charity Commissioners yesterday called for the removal of Arthur Scargill from the chairmanship of two coal industry welfare organisations after he was found guilty of misconduct.

After a year-long investigation the commissioners said it was "necessary or desirable" that Mr Scargill and Frank Cave, president and vice president respectively of the National Union of Mineworkers, should be removed from

their posts with the charities.

Mr Scargill yesterday responded by threatening the commissioners with legal action in the High Court and pointed out that the NUM national executive and annual conference had backed his decisions over the welfare organisations' assets.

NUM officials have until the end of January to contest the decision to remove them from the trustee boards controlling the Yorkshire Miners' Welfare Trust Fund Scheme

and the Yorkshire Miners' Welfare Convalescent Homes.

The investigation by the commissioners followed complaints by two trustees nominated by British Coal, who argued that the transfer of £800,000 from the trust fund to the convalescent homes had been improper.

The two British Coal nominees said the decision had been taken at a meeting where several trustees were absent and that the transfer had failed to

follow the correct procedures.

Mr Scargill's fellow trustees alleged that inaccurate minutes had been presented to meetings of the trust fund scheme's most senior officials.

There is no question that Mr Scargill or Mr Cave profited personally from the transaction. It is thought they were keen to switch the cash to avoid the trust fund becoming involved in "partnership-funded schemes". These were introduced at the time of coal in-

dustry privatisation in 1995.

Mr Scargill and Mr Cave opposed the schemes because they believe that such welfare projects should be funded by the state and management – a position they believe is endorsed by their union's policy.

The commissioners also found that places at the convalescent home run by the charity were "improperly denied" to ex-mineworkers who failed to keep up union membership after taking voluntary redundancy.

The two union officials were suspended from the trusteeship of the charities in June, pending the investigation.

Mr Scargill has always insisted that he has acted in the best interests of the two organisations' beneficiaries and that the decisions had been based on the advice of counsel.

He has insisted that the trustees of the fund decided in May 1995 that it was not in the best interests of the trust to accept "partnership funding".

Cancer survivor tells her story on TV to raise funds

A woman who developed cancer at the age of 25 was so grateful to be cured of the disease that she is to star in the first television commercial to raise funds for cancer research. **Jeremy Lawrence, Health Editor, hears her story.**

Lynn Holloway was married with a two-year-old daughter when she was diagnosed as having Hodgkin's disease, a cancer of the lymph glands. Almost the first thing the doctors told her was that saving her life might only be achieved at the cost of her fertility.

"I was frightened like everyone else when the big C word was mentioned. But my main worry was whether I would be able to have any more children," she said.

Seven years on, she has defied the odds to give Becky, nine, two brothers—Jordan, five, and Samuel, three. To repay her doctors, she offered to help raise funds and was selected to appear in the Cancer Research Campaign's £70,000 television campaign. The advertisements, which show Becky talking of her fear and joy as her mother finally beats the disease, is to be launched on Boxing Day.

After her diagnosis, Ms Holloway endured a year of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, which required fortnightly stays in hospital and left her feeling

nauseous and wretched. There are between 2,500 and 3,000 cases of Hodgkin's disease each year and 70 per cent are cured but the treatment can have long-term toxic side-effects. As well as infertility, some patients develop other cancers ranging from leukaemia to lung cancer.

"Half-way through the treatment I got very angry. I told everyone to go away and that I had to get on with it myself and no one could help me. I think focusing on having another baby helped me to get better. It kept my mind off me. I was thinking not about dying but about having more children."

Final confirmation of her recovery came when a life-assurance company which had been quoting her a premium five times the normal rate reduced it last year to the standard fee. It meant that mortgages, bank loans and all the burdens that constitute an ordinary existence, and which depend on the guarantee of life assurance, were hers again. Normal life had been resumed. Ms Holloway said: "Everyone thinks if you get cancer you are going to die. It is not true anymore."

The pilot television campaign will run for one month on Sky News, Discovery Channel, Granada Goodlife and The History Channel. A spokeswoman for the Cancer Research Campaign said the cost of running it on the main ITV network would have been too great. The response will be assessed before a decision to repeat the experiment is taken.



The nose has it: Anthony Sher preparing to play Cyrano de Bergerac at the Lyric Theatre in London last night. The performance marks the centenary of Edmond Rostand's play in London and Sher joins actors such as Steve Martin (in the film *Roxanne*), Gerard Depardieu, Sir Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay to play the role. Photograph: Tom Pison

CJD fears for eye transplant patients

Three patients who received eye transplants from a woman who was later found to have had Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may have to undergo new transplant operations to reduce their risk of infection. Government advisers on CJD have recommended that the donated corneas, given to two patients, and the sclera (white of the eye) given to a third should be removed and replaced with fresh tissue. There are fears that any CJD prions present in the eyes could leach out slowly increasing the risk of transmission of the disease the longer they are in place.

— **Jeremy Lawrence, Health Editor**

MP plea on murder

Simon Hughes, Lib Dem MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, has joined the father of Jamie Robe, 17, who was murdered on a south London estate, in calling for witnesses to break the "wall of silence" surrounding the police investigation.

Libyans will get fair hearing in Lockerbie trial, says UN report

The two Libyans suspected of the Lockerbie bombing would get a fair trial by jury in Scotland, according to a report by the United Nations. It was announced last night.

But despite the apparent backing of the UN the Libyan authorities have no intention of handing over the suspects, say campaigners.

A Lockerbie support group has also cast doubt on the findings of the UN report and have called for the full details to be made public.

The UN legal experts' opinion follows a fact-finding visit to Scotland earlier this month.

A Crown Office spokesman in Edinburgh said: "The Crown Office welcomes the report of the UN legal experts who, contrary to speculative and ill-informed reports, have concluded that the accused would receive a fair trial under the Scottish judicial system."

"We are particularly pleased to hear that they concluded that a trial by jury would not prejudice the accused's right to a free trial."

"Libya should now stop prevaricating and secure the appearance of the accused for trial."

Relatives and campaigners for the 270 people who died when Pan Am 103 was blown up by a terrorist bomb December 1988 called earlier this week for the Government to allow the trial of the two Libyans to be held in a neutral country.

Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP and Lockerbie campaigner, questioned last night the contents of the UN report and has asked for it to be made available in the Commons. He said there were reports that some members of the UN team were unhappy about a trial in Scotland.

He added that it would not matter "a damn" either way because

the Libyans would not surrender the two suspects to Britain or the United States. Libya has refused to hand them over despite UN sanctions.

The statement from the Crown Office came the day after relatives of the dead organised a press conference in Edinburgh where Mr Dalyell called for the Lord Advocate to step aside from deciding where the suspects should stand trial.

The event on Sunday was staged to mark the ninth anniversary of the tragedy, in which 270 passengers and Lockerbie residents died when a bomb destroyed the airliner.

Among those taking part were the spokesman for the British relatives, Dr Jim Swire, the Edinburgh University law professor Robert Black, and Dr David Fieldhouse, a GP from Bradford who gave evidence at the fatal accident inquiry.

— **Jason Bennetto**

Schizophrenic jailed for killing

A schizophrenic who had escaped diagnosis for nearly a year killed a neighbour in a knife attack, an Old Bailey court heard yesterday.

Tolga Kurter, 20, was sent to Rampton high security hospital indefinitely after admitting manslaughter while suffering from diminished responsibility. His plea of not guilty to murder was accepted by the court.

While suffering from "bizarre delusions", Kurter had stabbed Nicholas Boyd, a taxi driver, near their homes in north London in April this year – believing his victim was another man.

Holes baffle golfers

A golf course is full of unwanted holes – thanks to a mystery bomber who is aiming for its greens. The bomber has targeted Skipton Golf Course in North Yorkshire up to nine times this year, setting off miniature explosions which cause havoc for greenkeepers.



Lynn Holloway with her children. She had feared that treatment for Hodgkin's disease would leave her infertile

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*Source: IDC



DELL

Christmas comes but twice a year

By the weekend, the festive season will merely be a pleasant or uncomfortable memory as millions return to ordinary life. For some Christians, however, Christmas is only just looming on a distant horizon. Steve Crawshaw meets some of the not-yet-Christmassers.

Tomorrow is Christmas Eve. Right? Well, sort of. For some, Christmas does not arrive for another fortnight. For them, there is a kind of double vision, as everything closes down for the Western Christmas, and then opens up again - while Christmas preparations are still under way.

At the Russian cathedral church in South Kensington, they have only just got past St Nicholas's Day - the original Santa Claus day, in early December.

The air has been filled with incense and medieval chanting in recent days. The day after tomorrow, however, the church will be as closed as your local supermarket. Why have special services on the day that the congregation regards as Thursday 12 December?

The Russians will celebrate

New Year in tandem with everybody else - if rather more vigorously.

Vodka tends to flow generously. Christmas comes later, on 7 January. *Kutya* - a rich dessert made of wheat, honey and poppyseed - will be eaten. But for the Russians at least, there is little of the traditional British feasting at Christmas.

For many of the Russian churchgoers, the obvious mass-marketing of the Western Christmas is baffling and disturbing.

"Our Christmas is more spiritual. This is more commercial," says one of the cathedral congregation.

Not that the Russian church is entirely oblivious to modern commercial life - a notice instructs you, as you enter: "Please switch off mobile phone before entering cathedral."

Serbs - brothers in the Orthodox faith - also see Western Christmas as a fortnight premature.

At the Serbian church in Ladbroke Grove, west London, icons cover the walls of a building that used to belong to the Church of England until the 1950s. In one corner, the priest is blessing special home-made loaves, the *slavski kolac*, which are specially made for St Nicholas's Day.

For some at the Serb service, there is a sense of double iden-



Extended season: A priest blessing the bread during Advent celebrations at the Serbian church in Ladbroke Grove, west London

Photograph: Rui Xavier

tity - they boast a native London accent, with Serb values attached. Most regard the delayed Christmas as a kind of bonus.

"On 25 December, I sit back and watch some good TV," says Milan Jankovic. "This way, I feel like I get two Christmases. I was made in England, you know."

His friend Novak agrees: "We reap the benefits of both."

When it comes to the Serbian Christmas meal, a mere turkey with trimmings seems modest by comparison.

Christmas Eve is reserved for fish and potato salad. But for Christmas Day, a pig or

lamb is roasted on the spit.

Ukrainians, too, count the days differently. Of the Orthodox Christians, only the Greeks are already preparing for Christmas Eve tomorrow.

The disjointedness stems from the different calendars that are still in use in the Orthodox

church. The West follows the Gregorian calendar, proclaimed by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. Britain joined in a couple of centuries later.

Russia, meanwhile, stuck to the Julian calendar (named after Julius Caesar). Russia did not abolish the Julian calendar

until after the 1917 revolution. Even then, the church remained firmly in the Julian camp; in effect, the new calendar was seen as a Bolshevik iniquity.

In some respects, the confusion is still there.

The anniversary of the Oc-

tober Revolution falls in November. Meanwhile, 7 January is - after years of being ignored - celebrated as a Russian national holiday.

Old and new are mixed and matched. And Russians and foreigners can wish happy Christmas twice.

Britons turning to Buddhism for fulfilment

By this stage in the proceedings, many people may be wishing they could retreat from Christmas. One solution is to become a Buddhist, the religion that Britons appear to be buying in bulk, writes Clare Garner.

Dalai Lama and the big screen *Seven Years in Tibet* this year and Martin Scorsese's *Kundun* early next - has consolidated Buddhism's reputation as the most fashionable option on the spiritual market.

Stephen Batchelor, author of *Buddhism Without Beliefs - A Contemporary Guide To Awakening*, published in Britain earlier this month, regards the "trendification" of Buddhism as a mixed blessing.

"There is a danger that Buddhism will become reduced to a set of efficacious techniques," he said. "In the West, we are particularly liable to treat it as a spiritual technology, which is a gross simplification. Buddhism is a fairly complicated phenomenon."

Mr Batchelor, a Buddhist for the past 25 years, is leading the New Year retreat at Gaia House. It is held from 27 December to 1 January - the "nowhere week" between Christmas and New Year - and has 60 people signed up. Between 20 and 30 more are on

the waiting list. Mr Batchelor will himself be enjoying a traditional French Christmas - "very indulgent and good fun" - before launching himself into asceticism, but other Buddhists, such as Mary-Jayne Rust, 41, a Jungian analyst, and her management consultant partner, Adrian Henriques, 44, plan to

do a sponsored fast from Christmas Eve to Christmas night in aid of a school in Ladakh. "I'm tired of the old routine," said Ms Rust, who has in the past enjoyed traditional Christmases. "I've got to the point when I feel there has to be a different way of doing this. Recently I've felt more and

more strongly that there's an environmental crisis. The more uncertain our future becomes the more it seems to me people in the West get addicted to consuming material things. Something has got to stop somewhere. To fast at Christmas is a way of making a statement."

Among the other retreats on

offer this year is that of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order at Sibford in Oxfordshire. It lasts from 23 December for 10 days. There is no fasting and the focus is on teaching and practising meditation. It is aimed at relative newcomers, who don't have to be Buddhist and so far, 48 people are going.



Adrian Henriques: Fasting

Photograph: John Lawrence

The Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd have been bought out by their Buddhist brothers. The old Anglican nunnery in Denbury, near Totnes, Devon, is no more. It has been renamed Gaia House and hosts around 25 Buddhist retreats a year, including one this week for "Christmas refugees".

This is a poignant symbol of the way Buddhism is quietly transplanting mainstream religion in this country. Retreat centres are starting to burst at the seams and private individuals are deciding to fast, not feast, this Christmas.

The celebrity endorsements, the enormous popularity of the

Catholic anger as Irish president takes Protestant communion

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK

Some days ago a man wrote to a Belfast newspaper accusing a woman of embarrassing the Catholic church and of having "a liberal, do-it-yourself, two fingers up to the bishops' agenda". The man is Father James McEvoy, professor of philosophy at Maynooth, the woman is the president of Ireland. Our Ireland Correspondent reports on some extraordinary happenings in church-state relations in Ireland.

When Mary McAleese was elected President of Ireland last month many had pigeon-holed her as a right-wing conservative Catholic who could be expected to follow the rules of her church. But already she has plunged into the business of demonstrating that being devout is not the same as being orthodox.

She made the move which enraged Maynooth, a leading seminary, on the morning of Sunday, 7 December in Christ Church, one of Dublin's two Protestant cathedrals, when she rose in her

peew, looked meaningfully at the watching media, and took Communion from a member of the Church of Ireland.

The first northerner to become president, Mrs McAleese had been accused during the election campaign of insensitivity towards Protestants. Since she had countered that she wanted her presidency to be about bridge-building, her action in Christ Church could be viewed as a practical demonstration of that aspiration.

Her gesture provoked no immediate outcry. Catholics do not normally take Communion in Protestant churches, but most who took any notice of the event viewed it as a welcome ecumenical gesture.

But then some muted early rumblings of disapproval within the Catholic church erupted into open criticism. The hierarchy met and, while emphasising that it did not wish to censure or embarrass the president or damage ecumenical relations, it let it be known that what the president had done was contrary to Canon Law.

Father McEvoy, however,

was much less genteel. "I would find it repugnant if she should ever again abuse the august office which she occupies in a way which would once more embarrass the Catholic church, by giving scandal to its members," he thundered. "Maybe the time has come for her to build another bridge, one that will bring her back to her fellow-Catholics."

Then the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Desmond Connell, explained during a radio interview that core differences between the churches created a fundamental barrier to inter-Communion. But he then added the latest in a line of PR disasters for the Catholic church when he said of Catholics: "What they are in fact doing in partaking of the Eucharist in a Protestant church is a sham."

His use of the word "sham" startled many Catholics and offended much of the Irish Republic's small Protestant population: Church of Ireland bishops were said to be distressed by the sentiments, and the language, used in the controversy. Archbishop Connell has said several times that he in-

tended no disrespect, but his choice of words certainly deepened the controversy.

The fact that the issue has flared up in this way has raised deep questions, most particularly about the parameters of the presidency and the authority of the Catholic church. Mrs McAleese, as a prominent lay Catholic, once chaired an inter-church committee which considered the Communion issue, and was therefore well aware that her action would not find favour with the bishops.

But then she has not been an admirer of the Irish hierarchy, having described it as "a shabby bleak procession of Pontius Pilate lookalikes, abusing priests, disinterested abbots and impotent cardinals".

She clearly knew that taking Communion in a Protestant cathedral was the equivalent of throwing down the gauntlet to the hierarchy.

Certainly Fr McEvoy's comments have the ring of a man who believes the McAleese presidency is going to be one of direct challenge to the Church. At this early stage the president has public opinion on her side: for in an opinion poll she won 78 per cent support. The signs are that most Irish Catholics approve of bridge-building and believe the hierarchy is out of touch.

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£85m rescue buys time for farmers

Britain's beef farmers won an £85m emergency support package from the Government last night after their campaign of lobbying, port picketing and protest. But, say Nicholas Schoon and Stephen Goodwin, farmers face an uncertain future.

Big changes are coming to British beef farming, Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, told the Commons yesterday. He is looking to set up an early retirement scheme, and insists their subsidies will be cut.

But in the same statement he announced an extra £85m to help them over the coming year after they suffered a huge drop in income in 1997. This was mainly due to the strong pound, with the BSE crisis a lesser factor.

There was over-supply of beef throughout Europe and a long-term decline in sales, he said. Furthermore, as BSE was eliminated from cattle herds in the United Kingdom the special compensation farmers had received from taxpayers to help them cope with the economic impact of the disease would disappear.

The great bulk of subsidy for beef farmers and others are agreed collectively by Europe's farm ministers as part of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy. Britain has

limited scope to cut subsidies unilaterally; if it did so it would be disadvantaging its own farmers compared to their European counterparts.

Britain under both Tory and Labour governments has argued strongly for major reform of the CAP and big subsidy cuts. But the UK has trouble finding support among other European governments, who are much more relaxed about featherbedding farming.

But Mr Cunningham does have discretion with the special extra payments made to hill farmers to support their livestock rearing on poorer land in a harsher environment – the Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance. He also has discretion over the amount of money they are granted to compensate them for a strong pound, which makes beef imports cheaper and depresses market prices.

Yesterday's statement was a clear signal that while he was increasing both in the short term, he would cut them significantly in the next few years - with the option of early retirement for farmers who felt they could not cope. The National Farmers' Union said a retirement package had been a "long-term aim" and it was ready to discuss a scheme with ministers.

William Jenkins, a South Wales hill farmer, said traditional hill farmers could no longer hope to make a profit from rearing calves and lambs and selling them in the autumn. "We have people in our area

who are in serious financial trouble and quite frankly this package is not going to get them out of it," Mr Jenkins said. He favoured gearing support more towards protecting the environment.

The extra help will mean about £37 per suckler cow, worth about £800 to an average lowland suckler cow producer with 22 cows, and £1,400 to an average hill farmer with 36 cows. In addition, hill farmers will get an additional payment of £10 - £11 per cow and approximately £1 per breeding ewe.

Stephen Rossides, head of the NFU's livestock department, said Mr Cunningham had brought to a head the need for farm policy across Europe to become more market-oriented with food prices brought down to world levels.



Crowded market:
Farmers face an
over-supply of
beef and a
long-term decline
in sales

Photographs:
Peter Cook

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Missing witnesses weaken inquiry

The inquiry into BSE was announced yesterday – but it may be a damp squib unless it can call witnesses from the civil service. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, asks what value an examination without witnesses would be.

The Government yesterday announced its long-awaited inquiry into the BSE crisis and the consequent deaths of more than 20 Britons — but gave it less than the full powers that observers had been hoping for.

Jack Cunningham, the agriculture minister, told the House of Commons that Lord Justice Phillips, an appeal court judge, would head an "independent inquiry" which would report back within a year.

The terms of reference means Lord Justice Phillips will have less ability to demand witnesses than Lord Justice Scott did when he led the inquiry into the sale of arms to Iraq. The terms also fall far short of those available under a full judicial inquiry made under the 1921 Act, which would allow him to subpoena witnesses, who would have to give evidence under oath. In fact it

may be impossible to interview key witnesses. The Government has said that it will not give evidence. Yet many of the decisions on beef and BSE were made within government.

However last night nobody could clarify whether this only applies to present government ministers, or whether working civil servants – such as the Chief Veterinary Officer, Keith Meldrum, who presided over the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food throughout the BSE crisis – would also be exempt.

David Body, a solicitor representing families whose relatives have died of BSE-induced CJD, said: "I would want to know that any government employee could give evidence without hesitation or fear that it would affect their employment. I'm just concerned that everybody who has something to say can say it."

The sweep of the inquiry will take in almost two decades, stretching from the "history and emergence" of BSE, and the action taken in response, up to March 1996 when the former Conservative government announced that the deaths of a score of young people from "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (v-CJD) was "almost certainly" caused by exposure to BSE.

DAILY POEM

I Sing of a Maiden

(Anon: 14th-century carol)

*I sing of a maiden
That is makeless;
King of all kings
To her son she ches.*

He came all so still
Where his mother was,
As dew in April
That falleth on the grass.

He came all so still
To his mother's bow,
As dew in April
That falleth on the flower.

He came all so still
Where his mother lay,
As dew in April
That falleth on the spray.

*Mother and maiden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
God's mother be.*

This week's poems come from *The Faber Book of Christmas*. Simon Rae's wide-ranging anthology of poetry and prose on all aspects of the season: sacred and secular, pro and con, at home and abroad (Faber & Faber, £9.99).

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Addict doctors urged to seek treatment

More and more doctors, dentists and nurses are becoming addicted to the drugs prescribed for patients. Ian Burrell discovers that a special rehabilitation centre has been set up to deal exclusively with medical addicts.

The British Medical Association yesterday appealed to doctors who were experiencing problems with alcohol and drugs to seek treatment without fear of reprimand.

Some general practitioners

have a penchant for diamorphine, as they like to call their heroin. Dentists can have a weakness for nitrous oxide, the laughing gas used to knock out patients before especially painful treatment. For pharmacists, the drug of choice tends to be codeine, a hypnotic opiate that they are not required to account for. Nurses are prone to secreting supplies of benzodiazepines - tranquillisers.

The unique position of health professionals in having easy access to drugs puts them at high risk of developing a dependency which can wreck their careers and families. The problem has now been recognised to the extent that a rehabilitation centre

to deal exclusively with health professionals suffering from substance abuse, the Foxleigh Grove Chemical Dependency Centre, has been set up near Maidenhead in Berkshire.

Earlier this year the BMA, along with the General Medical Council and the royal colleges, set up a working party on the misuse of alcohol and other drugs. Next month it will issue its first report, with recommendations on how the health professions should deal with addiction within their own ranks.

Dr Bill O'Neill, science and ethics adviser to the BMA, said: "We want to encourage people to come forward and acknowledge that they have a problem

and ask for help without their career being destroyed. Our ultimate concern is for the welfare of patients but the starting point has got to be to identify doctors who may have a problem before any harm is done."

Last year Clive Froggatt, 48, a family doctor who was a confidant of four successive health secretaries, admitted that he had a heroin addiction and offences for possession of the drug. A former Tory councillor who was brought in to advise on health reforms after meeting the then prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, he was dismissed from the medical register in March 1996 after being given a 12-month suspended sentence.

Some estimates submitted to the BMA have suggested that up to 14,000 doctors have alcohol or drug addiction problems, although accurate assessment of the scale of the problem is extremely difficult.

Several dentists have become addicted to the anaesthetic nitrous oxide, a fast-acting psychedelic drug which leaves no tell-tale smells but can have long-term neurophysiological effects. There is also concern over the use of cannabis by medical students because the drug is believed to inhibit fine movement, which is especially crucial in dentistry.

Among the population at large, between 10 and 15 per

cent are thought to have the type of personality which puts them at risk of addiction. Many doctors say they start taking drugs for experimental reasons, driven by professional curiosity.

Medical colleges are seen as breeding grounds for later alcoholism and deans are being encouraged to make greater efforts to include warnings on the potential dangers of psychoactive substances in the curriculum.

Health professional seeking help for an addiction problem can call Sick Doctors Trust 01252 345163; Pharmacists Helpline 01628 770243; Dentists Helpline 01628 770243; Anaesthetists Helpline 0171-631 1650.

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Clinic offers safe haven for medics

In Berkshire countryside, a rehabilitation centre has been set up to deal exclusively with health professionals suffering from substance addiction.

The Foxleigh Grove Chemical Dependency Centre, near Maidenhead, provides an environment in which doctors can be treated without the risk of later being blackmailed by fellow patients who threaten to expose them if they do not supply them with drugs. They are guaranteed anonymity because all support the principles of the Hippocratic oath.

Lory O'Connor, the centre's director, said: "In Foxleigh Grove you are not alone. You can see there are other people like you and it makes the shame bearable and engenders a sense of hope that things can change."

Surrounded by their peers, the doctors can focus on their own condition. Such an environment is conducive to allowing them to come out of a state of denial and to accept that they need help.

Foxleigh Grove has a remarkable record, with 89 per cent of the 130 health professionals so far treated avoiding relapse. At some rehabilitation units, patients have only an even chance of success.

Malcolm (not his real name), a pharmacist based on the south coast, has recently completed the Foxleigh programme in an effort to overcome a 17-year dependency on benzodiazepines. At times he would go into work only to get access to tablets. "I was taking them in handfuls. It was all my life consisted of," he said.

Malcolm sought treatment after realising that he could no longer remember what he had prescribed, and suffered sleepless nights worrying about what he had dispensed. He has now been free of the pills for a year and is back at work. "I didn't think I would ever come off them. Now I feel wonderful, but so ashamed of what I did."

The Foxleigh programme lasts for 35 days and demands total abstinence. For most patients, detoxification is achieved within five to seven days and the rest of the programme is based on counselling and group therapy. Patients are encouraged to participate in physiotherapy and aromatherapy. They are then offered after-programme treatment and encouraged to join Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous.

Among the helpers at Foxleigh Grove is Joe Mee, a one-time alcoholic dentist, who is able to reassure other health professionals that they can overcome their dependency and continue their career.

Michael, a surgeon, was forced to give up work after 10 years of alcohol problems. Last month he was appointed to a new consultant surgical position after successful treatment at Foxleigh Grove. He said that his new employers were aware of his drink history. Now 53, he hopes to work for another 10 years. "Without the treatment I would never have worked again and certainly would have lost my family. I would probably be in a bedsit by now on the SS [social security]."

— Ian Burrell



Place of safety: Joe Mee, a one-time alcoholic dentist and now a helper at the Foxleigh Grove clinic for health professionals in Berkshire

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

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TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU
DON'T LIKE.**



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Britain and France thrash out 'moral' arms code

Britain and France, Europe's largest arms exporters, are discussing an EU-wide code of conduct for 'moral' arms sales. John Lichfield reports.

In the original form proposed by Britain, the code was simple enough. If any EU state refused to export weapons for moral or humanitarian reasons, all other EU countries would also refuse.

The idea has been discussed first with France, in the hope of producing a draft agreement which could be presented to other European countries during Britain's presidency of the EU in the first half of next year. If Britain and France – the second and third largest arms exporters in the world – can agree a form of words, it is expected that the others will follow easily enough. But can Britain and France agree? The newspaper *Liberation* reported yesterday that the negotiations were in trouble. France was seeking to impose so many con-

ditions that the code would become meaningless.

Both British and French sources denied this version of events. They said that detailed negotiations were in progress. Several drafts had been discussed. Both sides hoped to agree a text soon.

British officials said that the French government was being "rather co-operative". There was some difficulty in getting the various agencies of the French government involved in arms sales to take a common line. But London is still confident that an

agreement will be reached early next year.

Britain and France are by far the largest arms exporters in the EU and often in competition for contracts, especially in the Middle East. In 1996, Britain exported military equipment worth \$8.8bn (£5.4bn) – 22.1 per cent of the world market, and France sold arms worth \$3.6bn (£3.7bn) – 14.1 per cent of the market. The only other EU arms exporters of a significant size are Sweden and Belgium.

Labour promised during the election campaign last April that, if it was elected,

it would ban arms sales to countries with an aggressive foreign policy or poor internal human rights record. Mr Cook is anxious to ensure that such a policy does not simply export jobs from Britain to the Continent.

The idea of an EU code of conduct was discussed enthusiastically by Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister, and Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, at the Franco-British summit in London last month. But the first draft submitted by Britain to French officials was rejected as too sweeping. France wants to ensure that the defin-

ition of moral grounds for banning arms sales does not become too broad. According to *Liberation*, Paris fears that, once an EU code was in force, the more pacifist, non-arms producing countries, such as Denmark or Portugal, could try to impose impossibly strict conditions on all arms exports.

Paris also wants to find some way of ensuring that arms contracts refused by the EU are not simply snapped up by the United States, the world's largest arms exporter.

Eurofighter agreement, page 10

Clinton flies in to Sarajevo

President Bill Clinton paid a flying visit to Bosnia yesterday and told people in Sarajevo and their leaders that the prospects for peace lay in their hands.

Addressing an audience in the city's national theatre, he said: "In the end the future is up to you, not to the Americans, not to the Europeans and not to anybody else." Mr Clinton had earlier met the three members of Bosnia's collective presidency, Alija Izetbegovic, Kresimir Zubak and Momcilo Krajisnik, and reminded them of their obligations under the two-year-old Dayton peace accords. Alluding to continuing difficulties over fulfilment of the accords, especially in forging common political institutions and the return of refugees, he said: "Those who rise to that responsibility will have the full support of the United States and the international community. Those who shirk it will isolate themselves."

Mr Clinton went on from Sarajevo to the north-eastern city of Tuzla, where he extended Christmas greetings to some of the 8,500 US troops serving with the Nato-led Stabilisation force (S-For) and thanked them for their contribution. In Washington last week Mr Clinton had announced that US troops would be remaining in Bosnia beyond the Congress-approved deadline of next June, and that no new date would be set for their withdrawal.

The troops in Tuzla were also addressed briefly by Robert Dole, last year's losing presidential candidate, who is a war hero himself and had long contested the realism of the June deadline. In a political masterstroke, Mr Clinton had invited Mr Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, who is head of the American Red Cross, to accompany him to Bosnia, giving the visit a pointedly bipartisan character. Extending the mandate of US troops, effectively for an indefinite period, is likely to face strong opposition from some Republicans in Congress when it is put to a vote early next year.

● An ally of the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, was proclaimed the winner yesterday in Serbia's presidential elections, described by foreign monitors as "fundamentally flawed". The losing candidate called the vote fraudulent and said he might challenge the results.

The Serbian Electoral Commission said that with about 96 per cent of the votes counted, Mr Milosevic's protégé, Milan Milutinovic, won 58 per cent while ultra-nationalist Vojislav Seselj had 38 per cent.

The commission said the turnout was 50.53 per cent, just above the 50 per cent minimum to make the election valid. But Mr Seselj's spokesman asserted that the turnout at 97.29 per cent of polling stations was 49.21 per cent. Mr Seselj said that Mr Milosevic's neo-communists rigged the elections by stuffing ballot boxes with false ethnic Albanian votes in Kosovo.

— Mary Dejevsky, Washington Letters, page 14



Reflections on crime: Two guards look on as the former South Korean president, Chun Doo-hwan, is driven away from prison yesterday after serving little more than a year of his life sentence for treason, mutiny and corruption. Photograph: Paul Baker/Reuters

Chechnya returns to haunt Yeltsin

When – or, rather, if – Boris Yeltsin fulfils his stated intention of returning to work in the Kremlin this afternoon after nearly a fortnight off sick, he will find an all-too-familiar problem sitting in his in-tray: trouble brewing in Chechnya.

Tensions in the Caucasus have risen sharply after scores of armed fighters attacked a Russian tank battalion in the republic of Dagestan, seized six hostages, and reportedly torched several vehicles. The two-hour gun battle was one of the most serious outbreaks of violence in the region for some months. It happened near Buynaksk, 30 miles from the republic's border with Chechnya.

The assault came after two detectives from Scotland Yard returned to Moscow after a brief visit to the region to try to negotiate the freedom of the British hostages, Jon James and Camilla Carr, who were abducted in Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, more than five months ago.

Mr Yeltsin plans to visit the region early next year. Chechnya's president, Aslan Maskhadov, has said he would meet Mr Yeltsin only to discuss the republic's full sovereignty. Phil Reeves, Moscow

US approves first anti-baldness pill

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first pill to fight baldness, a once-a-day tablet that promises to help men regrow hair and prevent more falling out. Merck-and-Co said that Propecia would be available on prescription in the US by mid-January. The company estimates that consumers will pay \$45-49 (£29-30) for a month's supply.

Propecia is not a miracle pill – none of the hundreds of men who tested the drug grew a full head of hair and not all were even helped. But before-and-after photographs showed that Propecia can shrink bald spots, a few by enough that just a quarter-sized spot of scalp still showed.

There are 40 million balding American men and many who now spend \$15-30 a month on non-prescription preparations may now turn to the new drug for help. Women suffer hair loss, too, but the FDA has warned that they should never take Propecia because it can cause birth defects – doctors have even said that women should not touch the pills for fear of absorption through the skin.

Propecia is a lower dose of a popular drug – Proscar – used to treat men with enlarged prostates. Doctors had noticed that some prostate patients were experiencing hair regrowth; Merck studied the effect and determined that 1mg of the active ingredient, finasteride, was enough to treat baldness – not the 5mg that prostate patients take. Propecia works by suppressing a hormone that shrinks hair follicles. In tests submitted to the FDA, dermatologists concluded that 30 per cent of men given Propecia grew slight amounts of hair in a year, and another 18 per cent grew moderate to heavy amounts. — AP, Washington

Nigeria clams up on coup arrests

Nigeria's military said yesterday that it was not yet ready to reveal the whereabouts of 12 people arrested for trying to topple army ruler General Sani Abacha, including his deputy, Lieutenant General Oladipo Diya. "There is no news," defence headquarters spokesman Colonel Godwin Ugbo said in Lagos. He added that more details of the coup would be released in due course.

Nigerian cities were quiet a day after state television broadcast a message saying the high-ranking soldiers, and one civilian, had been picked up. The main opposition coalition said it was alarmed by the arrests and said if the government had adequate evidence, the alleged plotters should be tried by an ordinary court, not a military tribunal.

The arrests come at a critical time for Nigeria, which faces elections next year as part of Gen Abacha's plan to restore civilian rule to Africa's most populous nation. Most of those arrested were Yorubas from the south-west, which has opposed the military since 1993 elections were scrapped as Yoruba tycoon Moshood Abiola was poised to win. Gen Abacha is from the north. — Reuters, Lagos

Leaders talk on rebuilding Somalia

Rival Somali factions plan to hold a reconciliation conference in February aimed at rebuilding state institutions shattered by six years of clan warfare, a Somali source said. A Somali leader involved in Egyptian-sponsored talks between warring groups said a "national salvation conference" would be held in the Somali town of Baidoa on 15 February. He said it would elect a 13-member presidential council from the four main tribes, each of which would be represented by three members. The final member would be from a minority tribe.

The leader, from the National Salvation Council (NSC), a 26-faction alliance opposed to warlord Hussein Mohammed Aided, said the conference would elect a prime minister to form a government later in February. It would also elect a parliament. — Reuters, Cairo

Lithuania upset

Lithuanians turned their backs on independence hero Vytautas Landsbergis in Sunday's presidential election, voting instead for two political novices with no links to established parties.

Final figures issued yesterday showed that 44-year-old Arturas Paulauskas, who topped the poll with 45 per cent, would face 71-year-old Lithuanian-American Valdas Adamkus in a runoff for the largely ceremonial job on 4 January. — Reuters, Vilnius

Tit for tat spy row

Turkey and Greece announced a round of tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats in a spy row that signalled a worsening of relations between the two traditional rivals. The Turkish foreign ministry said it had asked the Greek embassy to withdraw an administrative diplomat at its Istanbul consulate for "activities incompatible with his status", the diplomatic euphemism for spying.

Greece denied the accusation and said it would reciprocate. "We will answer by asking a Turkish diplomat to leave. The Turkish accusations are ridiculous and aim at creating fresh tension between us," a government official said in Athens. — Reuters, Ankara

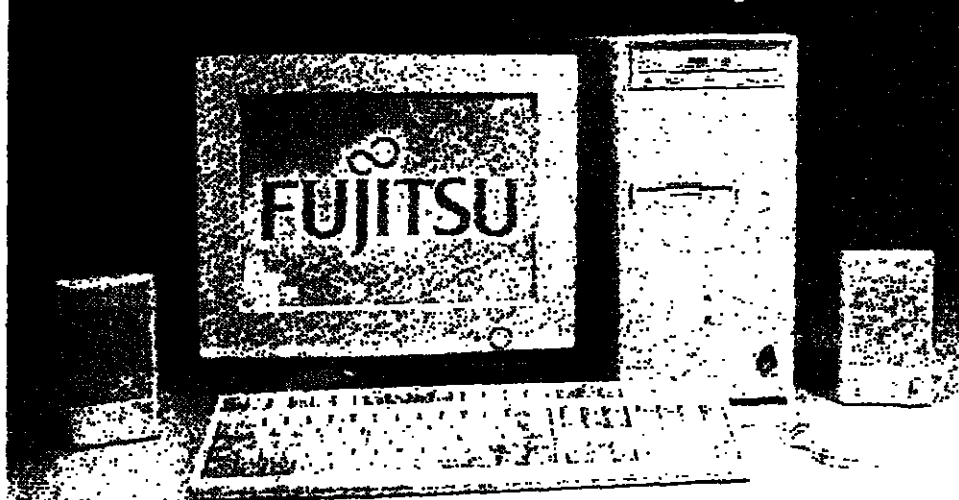
A role in space

A Russian film director said he hoped to send two actors into orbit for the first drama filmed in space but space officials said the huge sums of money involved could scupper the project. "The two actors chosen have undergone the necessary medical tests and in January a period of training will begin," Yuri Kara said, adding that the candidates could be ready to fly by next August.

Russian space officials said they welcomed the project in principle but stressed that no documents had yet been signed. "Everything depends on technical conditions, including the actual state of Mir," said a Russian Space Agency spokesman. — Reuters, Moscow

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10/EUROFIGHTER



A Eurofighter takes off near Munich yesterday. Germany was the last to agree to join the venture Photograph: Reuters

Jobs secured as Europe's war jet project takes off

Europe's biggest joint defence project to date got off the ground yesterday. Imre Karacs reports from Bonn on the launch of Eurofighter.

Four defence ministers from Britain, Italy, Germany and Spain, put their signatures yesterday to the contract to build the war airplane of the next century. The ceremony, aptly, was held in Bonn, the capital of the last country to be persuaded by the project's merits.

Eurofighter was conceived in the Cold War days of 1983, and development took off in 1988, a year before the fall of the Berlin Wall. Apart from the inconvenience of the obvious en-

emy dropping out of sight, the project has been bedevilled by technical hitches, cost overruns and hesitating politicians.

The German government, apparently unconvinced by the lobbyists' technical arguments, kept the other three participating countries waiting until last month.

The German end of the contract could still hit turbulence next year if the opposition Social Democrats win the elections in September. Though the SPD is itself divided over Eurofighter, the current leadership and the vast majority of Social Democrat MPs want the project scrapped.

Assuming that does not happen, 620 aircraft will be built in the countries concerned, at an estimated total cost of £40bn. It will be the biggest single defence

contract ever undertaken by the member countries.

Britain is set to pay £16bn for 232 aircraft to replace the Tornado F3 and the Jaguar. Deliveries to the RAF will begin in 2002 and continue until 2014.

Germany is replacing the Phantom jet, as well as Mig-29s inherited from the GDR, with 180 Eurofighters. Italy will buy 121 and Spain 87.

This is quite a commitment to a piece of equipment which even its admirers admit is merely second best. The American F-22 Raptor, due to go into production early in the next century, will easily outmanoeuvre Eurofighter. But it will cost twice as much, and will create no jobs in the EU.

"This is the best plane at the right price," was how George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, summed up the aircraft's virtues at yesterday's ceremony.

"This is one of the most modern and inspiring aircraft that could be produced," he gushed. "It is not only all European for European needs, but has the agility, power and versatility to deal with the varying challenges and risks we are going to face in the next 20 years."

Germany's defence minister, Volker Rühe also made the point that the project would help Europe's air and space industry to compete with the United States. "This will make thousands of jobs safe," he said.

A total of 100,000 jobs are said to depend on Eurofighter. In Britain alone, 14,000 people will work directly on the project, and another 26,000 are estimated to depend on it.

British industry is primarily involved in construction of the front end of the jet, the cockpit, the front canard wings, part of the main wings, the new EJ200 engines and much of the avionics, including the advanced new radar. Some 200 British companies, including GEC-Marconi, Dowty, Lucas, Martin Baker and Smiths Industries, are involved in the development of a range of equipment.

The aircraft will be assembled at British Aerospace's plant in Lancashire from components manufactured by companies in the four partner nations. Rolls-Royce will manufacture the engines, primarily at their plants in Bristol and Derby. In the other countries the respective partner companies will have their own assembly lines in Munich, Madrid and Turin.

Eurofighter is a twin-engine "multi-purpose" aircraft, capable of ground attacks as well as a more general defence role. The aircraft claims to have the world's most advanced radar for long-range detection. The radar, developed in Britain, will allow pilots to detect and track numerous targets simultaneously and then to fire at enemy aircraft well beyond visual range.

The aircraft is aerodynamically unstable, necessitating advanced computer systems to keep it airborne. It will be equipped with an infra-red search and track system which will render "stealth" aircraft visible. It will be capable of flying at twice the speed of sound. Since March 1994, it has carried out more than 500 test flights.



£16bn cost of UK 'insurance policy'

In matters of high-cost, state-of-the-art military aircraft, the language as well as the philosophy of a Labour government stands transformed. In 1964, Harold Wilson damned the TSR-2 with faint praise: "If it works, and does what is expected of it at reasonable cost, we shall want it."

A few months later, and the supersonic fighter-bomber was scrapped, and replaced by the US-built F-111.

No such weasel words yesterday from George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, as he appended this Labour government's signature to the memorandum of understanding that cleared the way to full-scale production of the four-nation Eurofighter, spiritual descendant of the TSR-2.

Instead, the very blandest of justifications for a project with a £40bn price tag, of which £16bn will be picked up by the British taxpayer. It was, he said in Bonn, "an insurance policy for uncertain years ahead". But for Eurofighter's multitude of critics, the real uncertainty is another: are there any enemies around who merit production of this hugely expensive piece of hardware?

The Eurofighter belongs to a generation of blue-ribbon weapons programmes like the \$2bn B-2 bomber and the \$2bn Seawolf submarine in the US, all conceived to meet a Cold War threat that no longer exists.

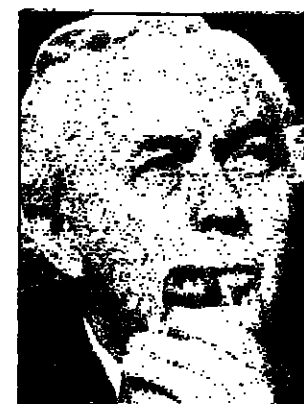
In the 1980s, Nato air supremacy against numerically superior Warsaw Pact forces in central Europe was vital. But now that half the pact is about to join Nato, and the Soviet Union has vanished, the original rationale is no more. Had the Eurofighter happened 10 years later, it probably would have gone the way of the TSR-2.

There remain some solid arguments in favour of the aircraft though - in the view of most independent analysts - not for the full quota of 232 ordered by the RAF. Their most obvious function is in a high-intensity regional war like the Gulf conflict, though in taking on a "rogue state" like Iraq or Iran, replacing the Tornado and the Jaguar by the Eurofighter would be a case of substituting the vastly superior with the immeasur-

ably superior. Obviously too, the Eurofighter would add teeth to the peacekeeping missions which will be a prime task of the armed forces of Britain and its Nato partners in years to come. But then again, do we need a sledgehammer to swat a fly?

"The Government should maintain its commitment to Eurofighter," the independent Saferworld security think-tank stated in a report this month, but "scale down its order rate from 20 to 12 a year".

In truth, Mr Robertson's signature acknowledged two realities: the 40,000 aerospace jobs which Eurofighter will guarantee in Britain alone



Wilson: scrapped UK warplane for US F-111

well into the new millennium - and the risk of allowing the US a monopoly of the market.

As with the TSR-2, a US alternative exists in the F-22 stealth fighter. But though it is a superior aircraft, the F-22 is almost twice as expensive as Eurofighter. And even if production was partially farmed out, it would generate far fewer jobs in the United Kingdom.

The hope of course is that exports bring down the unit cost of the jet. Smaller Nato countries are possible customers, but other potential purchasers in the Middle East and Asia are beset by financial problems. This is also to reckon without the inevitable ferocious competition from the US.

The omens from France are not encouraging. The Dassault-built Rafale, direct competitor to the Eurofighter, has won not a single export order, and its only customer, the French government, is slashing its initial order for 48 of the aircraft.

Let them

Sexual
fetishism in
the home:
a foot note

مكتبة الامم



Most parents have no idea what kind of foods they should and shouldn't allow their children to eat, says Dr Dee Dawson
Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

The best present for children in hospital this Christmas? Mummy and Daddy

A stay in hospital is often traumatic for children, but unless a parent or carer can be there too, says Pru Irvine, the emotional damage can last a lifetime.

I spend my life in and out of hospitals with my children. My youngest is mentally handicapped and my eldest suffers very mild cerebral palsy. But I will never become accustomed to being by the bedside, 24 hours a day. In the beginning there's fear and anguish for your child, tinged with the relief of not having to do homework, supper, bath and bed. But then there's my child who suddenly seems very small, frightened and in pain. And then there's the boredom. I can't drink coffee on the ward and he doesn't want me to leave him. I can't live on disgusting sandwiches from a vending machine and the cafeteria is closed for refurbishment. I spend the night in a chair next to his bed or on the floor on a half-mattress. And then, of course, there's no sleep. It's never dark or quiet. I listen to the crying of children who have nobody with them and who must wait for a nurse with time for a cuddle.

All over Britain there will be children who spend this Christmas in hospital. Most will have family and friends staying, but many will spend days and nights without the comfort and love of a parent or a carer. It can't be good for children to be left battling with an experience that most adults shudder at. Who is letting who down? Are parents failing their children or is the Health Service so bogged down in policy that it's forgotten its human face?

Mothers who could stay but don't are often consumed by fear, anxiety and feelings of incompetence in the face of nursing skills. For their children there is a cycle of protest and despair that finally gives way to withdrawal.

"People develop institutional defences in hospital," says Juliet Hopkins, a child psychiatrist at the Tavistock Clinic in London. "What you don't want to know about you don't see. The sustained grief of any particular child is not observed if it's too painful. New people on the ward or visiting mothers witness the enormity of it but become hard-boiled after a while. A lot of parents underestimate their own capacity. If they knew how important they are in the healing process, how much they can give, they might move heaven and earth to be there."

Can anything make a difference? A child who is well prepared for being alone will suffer separation less traumatically. An under-five, says Juliet Hopkins, experiences the unpleasant things that happen in hospital as attacks: "Young children without their parents suffer a basic loss of

trust. Suddenly they're no longer protected from a trauma. Fear and anger take over and, if they've been in hospital long enough, they're emotionally frozen when they get home. You can't tell how much they've suffered until they start to thaw out."

Sister Madeleine Mitchell at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh, endorses this view, but she says there are often minuses associated with parents who stay. A child may refuse to co-operate unless the parent is constantly there. The parent feels guilty and often doesn't know when to go away. The system doesn't always work as well as the policy, she says.

The 1996 Children's Charter recommended universal parental access to paediatric wards. But there are gaps between policy and practice and much depends on individual hospitals. Although many are defensive about such gaps, most admit they are inevitable. Most encourage parents to stay and many have consistently improved their facilities. Maggie Rogers, Lead Nurse for Children's Services for Barts, Queen Elizabeth and The Royal London hospitals says "Many senior managers just don't understand the needs of children and so adopt a very hands-off approach. There need to be changes, both medical and management, at senior level. We need to create an ethos of family-centred care."

But not all parents can stay. Other family commitments are a powerful force in keeping parents away. Working mothers are also a contributory factor. "If a parent isn't there," says Maggie Rogers, "we will provide someone who can help alleviate some of the psychological damage. Most hospitals are good at long term family accommodation but facilities for parents to sleep and wash and eat on the wards are not good. We should be able to provide comfortable facilities near the child who is only in for a short period."

At Great Ormond Street, information about accommodation and facilities is sent in advance of a child's arrival. One parent is expected to stay. The Hospital's Family Accommodation Manager, Michelle David, says a child in hospital creates enormous stress on a family. The feelings left by such an experience, she says, can last the whole of the child's life.

There are also cultural differences in attitudes to care. At the Queen Elizabeth in east London, 70 per cent of patients are of ethnic origin. It's a long tradition for Asian mothers to stay with their children, while travelling families will often not even cross the threshold of a hospital because they loathe institutions.

Consultant paediatrician Sheila McKenzie says if you refused an Afro-Caribbean mother a place to sleep, "you'd get a smack in the face".

Let them eat Jaffa cakes

We may think we know what constitutes a wholesome diet for children, Ann Treneman says, but a doctor who treats young anorexics condemns parents who see raw carrots and a bit of fruit as a healthy snack.

Dr Dee Dawson is a mother of five and an expert on eating disorders who believes that grown-ups do not have a clue about what children should be eating. She says this as often, and as loudly, as possible in the hope that we adults come to our senses. Five minutes into our interview, she had attacked the Government, schools and the medical profession. But then she gets personal and turns to the vexed subject of her children's lunchboxes.

"The rules at my children's school are stupid. They are not allowed to bring Jaffa cakes because they have a bit of chocolate on them," she says. "I send them anyway. They aren't supposed to bring crisps. Why? Perhaps, I say, because crisps are meant to be bad for you. 'No they're not! They're a wonderful form of nutrition. They give energy. The headmistress suggested that they might bring carrots, celery and fruit. I said if my kid wants a

break, she wants to eat. If I send carrots and celery, I might as well give her a cardboard box to chew on."

This sounds like a joke but Dr Dawson, the 50-year-old medical director of Rhodes Farm Clinic for anorexic children in North London, does not laugh. But surely, I say, children can only benefit from fresh vegetables? "Of course children have to have salad and fruit and fresh vegetables," she says, "but they have no calories and no nutritional use except for the vitamins. They don't contribute to the child's growth and energy. This is what a child is all about - growing, strong bones, strong teeth, healthy muscles. Kids need so much energy and none of those foods provide any of that. You give a child a carrot stick at break and you may as well give them nothing."

Dee Dawson specialises in making such challenges. Why shouldn't children eat between meals if they are hungry? Why should children worry about fatty foods? Why don't we teach our children that fat is essential to our diets and that some fats are good for you? What is wrong with vending machines in schools? Dr Dawson believes that the answer to each of these questions is obvious if we would just rediscover the common sense that we have lost in our fat-phobic age.

And the woman who, before qualifying as a doctor, founded a company devoted to making clothes for those size 16 and over is on a campaign to put things right.

"Parents are confused. Doctors are confused. The Government is confused. Schools are confused," she says. Last month she attacked the Government in a speech to the Girls' Schools Association, criticising advice that children should eat low-fat foods, and a report that suggested tuck shops should close. Her views ended up on the front page. "I was delighted," she says.

Since then the Department of Health has distanced itself from the leaked report that was submitted in the run-up to next year's green paper on public health. "It has no status other than as a document requested," said a spokeswoman who confirmed that there are no nutrition guidelines for children. The Health Education Authority touches on the subject briefly in its booklet "Balance of Good Health" which is full of advice on how to eat less fat. Nor does the Department of Education provide much help. In June it was announced that nutritional standards were to be set for school lunches but there is no progress yet. A spokeswoman said they hadn't yet begun drafting the Healthy

Eating Initiative.

The Department of Health added that it was always keen to hear other opinions and urged Dr Dawson to feel free to contribute. Somehow, I don't think she will need much encouragement. "I would like to see the Government prepare a proper resource kit for schools which talks about healthy eating, healthy exercise, about laxative abuse, anorexia and the long term effects of eating disorders," she says. "Schools are interfering in aspects of nutrition that they don't really understand. If they had a pack, then we could all agree to not tell children they should be on a low-fat diet. Lots of teachers think that's a good idea! But it's not for children."

The core of Dr Dawson's philosophy is that most children, left to themselves, do not have eating problems. "Adults eat for comfort and when they are not hungry because they like food. Children tend not to do that. I personally wouldn't restrict my child's calories. I would allow them to find their own level." As long as her children eat three meals a day, she is not worried about snacks. Children become anxious about food because their parents are and she points to the boom-and-bust Christmas and New Year period as evidence. "Dieting has become a na-

tional pastime. It's not often that you find someone who says they eat what they like, when they like, and aren't worried."

Many parents, under the impression that all fat is bad and all carrot sticks good, end up depriving their children though Dr Dawson uses a harsher word. "What happens when you starve kids is they become dull and less outgoing. They've lost their joie de vivre. This happens before you see any weight loss. The whole metabolism will drop. A lot of parents are doing that. If their children were eating more they would be living life on a different plane with energy to burn."

No child should be on a diet unless under the care of a doctor, she says, and only 4 per cent of children are considered to be overweight anyway. But 1 to 2 per cent of all school children have anorexia and the two groups are not unrelated. "Some children are hampered by being truly fat and they could do with a bit of help. It needs to be done carefully, because something like a third of the children at my clinic have been overweight, have gone on diets and just not stopped."

The clinic is in a large house and takes 32 children at a time. When you walk up the drive, you can see into the dining room. It is a sad sign of our times to see so many shrunk-

en children gathered together to learn how to eat. So far 400 children have come here over the years and all arrive weighing 80 per cent of their normal body weight or less (48 per cent was the lowest). Dee shows me a picture of a boy near the lower end of the scale - it is like looking at a victim of famine. "He was absolutely terrified of fat," she says. Her youngest patient was six years old. "She thought that she had fat thighs and her tummy wasn't flat."

But children do not become anorexic just because their mums won't let them eat chips. Anorexia is a disease that strikes a certain type of child (a perfectionist and an obsessive) at a particularly stressful time. The child's life feels out of control and so she controls the one thing she can: her body. (Only 10 per cent of anorexics are boys.) Dee Dawson is saying that we are raising a nation of children who are confused about food and that grown-ups are only making it worse. "Do parents know whether we are supposed to be giving kids skimmed milk or semi-skimmed, butter, chips or crisps? What about chocolate?"

So, I ask, it's crisps and chocolate bars all round then? "Not every day," she says. "You've got to be sensible." And for once she sounds just like any other mum.



DR PHIL HAMMOND

Sexual fetishism in the home: a foot note

"Morning, Mrs Betts"
"Morning, doctor"
"All ready for Christmas?"
"Just got to crimp the figgy duff."
"Splendid. So what can I do for you?"
"My husband wants to smell my feet."
"And?"
"And his friend Percy's."
"I see. Why do you feel the need to involve your family physician?"
"I want to know if it's normal."
"Mmm. I did once attend a lecture on the functions of the foot, but I can't

remember that as one of them."
"So it's abnormal?"
"I'm not sure. Why exactly does he want to do it?"
"He says he's locked his sexuality in the closet for too long, and it's time to celebrate his desires, not feel guilty about them."
"That doesn't sound like the Bertie Bell I know."
"What, you mean good Catholic upbringing, Sunday evening two-minute Missionary man?"
"I don't know him that well. In fact, I only ever see him in the cheese shop."
"Not lately, you won't have. He's been taking most afternoons off to go to car boot sales."
"For what?"
"Boots."
"Very good."
"No, seriously. He buys the second-hand boots of authority figures - policemen, soldiers, Jesuit priests - and he takes them up to the boxroom to sniff them."
"Anything else?"
"He's taken to masturbating into a sock."
"Well, we've all done that."
"Pardon?"
"You know. When you're young and excitable and pumped full of testosterone - and you want to experiment with yourself without leaving tell-tale snail's tracks on the sheets so your mother won't know."
"We buried his mother ten years ago."
"Yes, but I'm just saying that using

a sock isn't unusual."
"Maybe not. But he only does it if the sock's really smelly and doesn't belong to him."
"And how is he generally? His weight, his appetite?"
"Fine."
"Passing water OK?"
"Far as I know."
"Bowels regular?"
"Yes. Where is this leading?"
"I've no idea. I'm just buying time."
"So you don't know anything about my problem?"
"I'm not even sure if it is a problem. Do you mind his new hobby?"
"Not if it keeps him in the boxroom. To be honest, we've been getting on each other's nerves a bit since he went semi-retired."
"Getting under each other's feet?"
"Doctor, limp word-plays are fine in sitcoms but they've no place in the surgery."
"Sorry. So the sock and shoe stuff doesn't bother you, you just don't want him interfering with your balls?"
"Oh, I like a foot massage - he's always been good at those - but I'm just not sure I want him sniffing them."
"But I bet he's been a closet sniffer for years without you realising. Hard day at work, love? Feet must be killing you. Kick off those stilettos and let me snort your web spaces."
"Come to think of it, he has always insisted on kneeling at my feet. I thought it was the myopia."
"Well there you are. He's been doing it all his married life without you

knowing - now he wants to share his pleasure with you, with your consent."
"But why was he hooked on feet in the first place?"
"Who knows? Maybe his Auntie Sybil used to tickle his feet till he passed out. Maybe his brother used to pin him down, stick dirty socks in his face and say 'smell the cheese'. Or maybe it's because foot sniffing is still a cultural taboo in Chewton Mendip and he's on a mission to push back the boundaries of sexual experience."
"He is on the Parish Council. But why has he suddenly come out about it? What's given him the courage?"
"I've no idea. You say he's gone into semi-retirement. Maybe that's given him time to reflect on his life."
"Not with the time he spends on that bloody computer."
"On the Internet is he?"
"I'm not sure. But our phone-bill's through the roof."
"I think you'll find he's surfed to the Erotic Extremities Website."
"Does such a thing exist?"
"Oh yes. It's very useful when you've staggered back idea-less from a Christmas cider promotion with 500 words to knock off by dawn."
"You've lost me now..."
"Remember. 'In human sexuality, the most profound taboos are often counterbalanced by intense longings to transgress the fragile borders between the permitted and the forbidden.'"
"Thank you doctor and Merry Christmas. These are for you."
"Oh, a pair of socks. How lovely."

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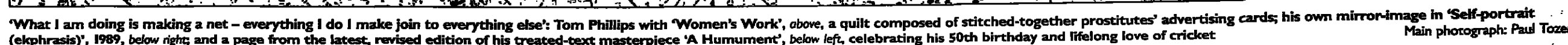
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[illegible]

I wish I'd given my father a good roasting

REVELATIONS

Clarissa Dickson Wright
hated her father. So much
so that her greatest regret
is not having done away with
him herself, she tells Pru Irvine.

My father was 50 when I was born. He was a surgeon - very successful, very powerful and an alcoholic, paranoid to the extreme. Did he practise as an alcoholic? Of course he practised, most certainly. I mean, half the surgeons in the country are practising alcoholics. If you can fly an aeroplane across America or cook a 10-course dinner party - as I did - on automatic pilot, then you can whip out an appendix or perform the odd lobotomy. As far as I know, he never did anything he shouldn't have. Poor man, he was very violent and very terrifying and very cruel and all the things that I subsequently became when I started drinking. I got a great deal of pleasure out of driving him mad. He was a genius and I was devoted. I learnt to duck and run at a very early age.

My mother was an Australian heiress, married at 17 straight out of a convent. They met in Singapore and I think he fell in love with the lifestyle rather than her. He was a sod to be married to. She dragged him back to London where he met all the right people and put up his plaque in Wimpole Street. We were rich but my father was incredibly miserly, although the one thing he never stinted on was the household bills. The servants ate what we ate. My mother used to say: "How will they ever learn to cook fillet steak if they don't eat it?" Father was a great gourmet. The only thing we didn't have World War Three about in our house was food. I remember him driving me to school talking about which O-levels I would sit to prepare me for medicine. I said I was going to be a barrister and he nearly crashed the car. It was one of the happiest moments of my life. He hated lawyers, which was why I decided to be a barrister. When I got a place at Oxford he refused to pay unless I read medicine. I didn't want to read medicine. In the end I read Law as an external student and shamed him into paying the fees - thanks to Edna Katz. Edna owned a shoe shop in Baker Street. She had no children and doted on me. When I told her about my father she wanted to give me the money but

I persuaded her to lend it to me. Go to synagogue and tell everyone, I said. I knew how much the Jews valued education and my father had a lot of Jewish clients. I had a lot of Jewish relatives. Within two weeks he'd picked up the tab. It gave me an enormous sense of my own power and a very great deal of pleasure.

Eventually, of course, he went off his head and left home. He really did go quite mad and then became a vegetable and lived out his last few years in a psychiatric hospital. I think having to pay for my 21st birthday party was the last straw. He agreed to my having 200 people to the party. "Go and tell your mother to organise it and send the bills to me," he said. I didn't trust him an inch so I took instructions from my mother and did it myself. She wasn't to speak to anyone or sign anything, not even a delivery note. It was planned for the Saturday before my actual birthday. It was wonderful. The next day I said, "thank you, daddy." "Don't thank me," he said. "Thank your mother. She signed for everything so she can pay for everything." When I told him I'd organised it he said, "well, you can pay." "But daddy, I'm not 21 until tomorrow." That was the day he hit me with a red hot poker. He paid because they sued him. Yes, not killing my father is my regret. The law had nothing to do with it. Honestly, if I could have I would have. I used to pore over botanical volumes. There's this thing called Wolfbane - a scentless, tasteless almost instant poison - which I failed singularly to find in the hedgerows of my childhood. I remember reading once that a Marks & Spencer store was selling it mistakenly as some sort of campanula. I was furious I hadn't been there. I used to hunt the woods for lethal mushrooms but to no avail. I never found anything. I always thought the world would be a better place if I could kill him. I just never found the right way of doing it.

'Two Fat Ladies' is on BBC2 at 8pm on Christmas Eve

'I used to hunt the woods for lethal mushrooms but to no avail,' says Clarissa Dickson Wright

Photograph: Nils Jorgensen / Rex Features



It's written in the cards...

What does your Christmas card reveal about your personality?
Tony Blair's showed himself and his children - as a Prime Minister you could actually trust. William Hague's depicted Pitt the Younger - presumably as the most recent Conservative Prime Minister who you could actually trust. So beware... your card could be saying more than you think...

● Charity card: I am a really caring and compassionate person, even though I only buy the nice Greenpeace designs with whales and stuff and not the strange ones painted by amputee women using their feet (because, frankly, my five-year-old could draw better than that). And this is, after all, the era of "compassion with a hard edge".

● Large, glossy card with enclosed "Family Newsletter": I am a pretentious middle-class prat, and so is each and every member of my immediate family. Here is a rundown of their paltry achievements if further proof were needed.

● Card depicting the Baby Jesus in a lowly cattle shed: you have received a promotional mail-out from the British Meat Marketing Commission.



And a Happy Christmas from everybody except Humphrey the cat

● Card depicting a Christmas tree bedecked with softly-glowing candles: you have received a promotional mail-out from the British Tallow Marketing Commission.

● Really tacky and tasteless musical card: I was going to buy you some really tacky and tasteless musical socks, but I didn't know your size. This will prove just as irritating when your children play with it constantly at the dinner table.

● Card with Dubious Sexual Joker: may revolve around a) Santa "coming" down the chimney; b) filling of stockings and stuffing of birds; or c) alternative red extremities with which Rudolf may be endowed - I want you to think I am exceedingly witty and a bit of a "lad", despite the fact that I haven't had any sexual contact with anyone since that brief snog encounter under the mistletoe last Christmas (and even that was with Drunk Uncle Jack).

● Belated card (with optional message reading "sorry if this gets delayed in the post!"): I have picked up a whole box of cards reduced to 20p in the January sales.

● Large pink card depicting rabbit dressed as Santa and printed message "Christmas Wishes to a Darling Little Girl": charmingly thoughtful if from an elderly female relative to a small child. Psychologically disturbing if from your boss, if you are over the age of 40, or if you are a bloke (of any age).

● Card wishing recipient a "Joyeux Noël", "Bonne Année" or "Fröhliches Weihnachten": I am strongly in favour of closer Economic Union. My idea of dealing with leftover turkey is to allow them into Europe providing they meet with all the required convergence criteria.

● E-mailed card: I am on the cutting edge of technology, and also aware of the fact that I can save at least 26p a card by not actually

buying any this year. (However, since I only have about three friends left, such a saving is of little importance in the long run.)

● Card showing a jolly bearded fellow in a red suit, surrounded by Elves: I am Robin Cook, and Tony told me it was good PR to send cards with a photo of you and your family on the front.



An Absolutely Fabulous Californian Christmas from Lynne Franks

● Card showing blessed Virgin, meek and mild: I am still not convinced by all this Girl Power stuff.

● Card with cheque inside: I am warm, caring, and probably about to ask you a large favour.

● Postcard from Barbados: I am just trying to make you jealous that I'm rich enough to escape Christmas in the bloody British climate.

● Postcard from Bermuda: I am Geoffrey Robinson MP.

● Hand-made card: I am a highly artistic type, and consequently spend my entire day sitting around with sod all to do except make Christmas cards. Being on benefit, I also have no money to spend on Christmas cards (even those horrid cheapo ones from Woolies).

● Personalised card with family photo on the front: I am so fundamentally insecure that I feel the need to provide photographic proof that someone has finally agreed to marry and/or have children with me. Given the stressful nature of Christmas in the 1990s, this may also be a useful reminder of the last time the whole family was actually together.

● Personalised card with family photo on the front, if you are a politician: I have a lot of cards to send and getting Euan to do them on his computer works out much cheaper. Also, it'll save having to do a photocall by the garden gate if I'm implicated



An orderly Christmas to you all from Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of Metropolitan Police

in a sex scandal during the next 12 months.

● Personalised card with passport photo on the front: I am Jack Straw, trying to introduce identity cards by the back door.

● Black-edged card inscribed with message of sincere condolence: I am a killjoy.

● Bright yellow card reading "Royal Mail called but you were out. Your parcel(s) have been returned to the Sorting Office for collection after 27/12/97": you will not be getting any Christmas presents this year. Ha! (And, incidentally, we've already broken them all by trying unsuccessfully to shove them through your letterbox.)

Debbie Barham

How a nice Jewish boy came to celebrate Christmas

They may as well as have been the Waltons. They were 22 carat solid gold Christians and I was eating their turkey. Peter Moss recalls a Christmas past.

Descended as I am from Abraham, via a boxer named Mendoza and a car dealer called Moskowitz, Christmas doesn't mean a great deal to me.

This wasn't always the case. I remember when I was a kid, my non-Jewish friend Timothy, keen to patch up 2,000 years of religious differences, invited me to celebrate Christmas with his family. Immediately, difference number one. They celebrate holidays, we just observe them - which is true, as anyone who's

ever sat in passive boredom at the Passover Seder table, replete with burnt eggs, bitter herbs, and unleavened bread, will testify. Eager for some jolly celebrations, I accepted the offer.

Timothy's people were the Waltons: 22 carat solid gold Christians, the only goyim within our little quarter of Jewish suburbia. Had this been Omaha Nebraska and not Hendon, their boys would have been named Chuck, Biff and Shepherd. As it was, they were Thomas, Timothy and Christopher.

We sat around the dinner table in a scene that Woody Allen was to transplant a decade later straight into *Annie Hall*: 11 Wasps and a snout-nosed Jewish kid from the posh end of the road. Immediately, difference number two. Goyim are so quiet. In a Jewish house you can't

hear the conversation for soup. In a non-Jewish house you can't hear the conversation. The Waltons home was so quiet you'd have thought someone had died.

Grandma Walton sensed my discomfort at pulling crackers, singing carols and eating suspicious white meat. "So what do you lot do for Christmas?" she inquired. I told her we didn't observe Christmas, but instead we have Chanukah. Warning to my theme, I explained the origins of Chanukah, recounting the miracle of the Jewish people making a teaspoon of oil last for eight days. She wasn't impressed. She'd been performing the same miracle for years with pot roast.

She then launched into a tirade of religious one-upmanship. "Our miracles are much more impressive than yours!" she claimed. "For instance..." I

enquired. "For instance," she replied, "the feeding of the five thousand - pretty impressive by any standards." I countered with Moses parting the waves of the Red Sea. She hit back with Christ walking on the water - an undeniably brilliant sleight of foot - and I retired gracefully to my hymn book.

Today, older and wiser and with children of my own, Christmas assumes absolutely no significance for me or my kids - and so far as they are concerned this has probably always been the case. Not so. If I were to write a book entitled *Things I Never Told My Mother and Certainly Won't Tell My Children*, the most pot-boiling chapter would chronicle blow by blow the Christmas Eve when I hung a stocking at the foot of my bed and asked God (that's God the

Son, not God the Father) to send me some new football boots and a pair of Peter Wyngarde fake sideburns. I never got either, not from God, his son, or my folks ... so I nicked them, but that's another chapter.

Thirty years on, and suddenly the stocking makes sense. Why not celebrate Christmas - and Easter, and Epiphany, and even the Feast of the Assumption for that matter? OK, I'm Jewish. But what is Christianity if not unashamedly derivative of Judaism? These 2,000 years of animosity - it's got nothing to do with the crucifixion. It's nothing more or less than a thousand degrees of envy because we had the ideas first. What are Easter and the Last Supper if not a plagiarisation of the Passover Seder, the eggs chocolate instead of burnt? Where would

Whit Sunday be without the role model of Pentecost? And what are the 12 days of Christmas if not an extravagant rejoinder to the eight days of Chanukah, an elaborate excuse to match the Jew's pound for pound in over-spending and over-eating?

And, in any case, Christ was Jewish, and what better than to celebrate the rise of a nice Jewish boy who played so beautifully to type. Tell me I'm wrong. Not only did he live at home till he was 34 years of age, not only did he go into his father's business, not only did his mother think he was God but, for heaven's sake, he thought she was a virgin! I rest my case. Happy Christmas. Happy Chanukah, whatever.

This year Chanukah begins at sunset, 23 December (Christmas begins a day or so later).

THE INDEPENDENT
GET MIXING!
WIN A J&B RARE MIX KIT

How do you mix your social life? Perhaps you're into rock and Opera or football and art galleries! According to a European survey by J&B Rare, Brits are best in Europe at living their social life to the full often mixing fitness, shopping and clubbing all in the same day.

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To enter this competition, visit the following question on line and leave your name and full address, and also stating that you are over 18 years old.

Q: What percentage of Britons like to mix their social life?

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'The sort of education I had may not survive ...'



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH
ON BRICK-CLAD SCHOOLING

I had a good education but not one that could be described as elitist in a social sense. It wasn't Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, nor Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge. But while there is no threat to the continued existence of the top public schools nor to the richer colleges of Oxbridge, the sort of education I had may not survive—at least not without strenuous action by those who believe in it.

I went to Birkenhead School in the 1940s and 1950s. It was what was known as a direct grant school. The majority of parents paid modest fees but the Labour and Conservative governments of the time made available sufficient state aid to such schools to allow them to provide hundreds of free places for boys from poor households who could pass the entrance examination. Perhaps technically Birkenhead was a public school, in the sense that its headmaster was and is a member of the Headmasters' Conference. It also took in a small number of boarders, but that reflected the domination by shipping of the Merseyside economy; inevitably some parents found themselves working abroad. But there was nothing pulkha about the school; the social mix stretched from dockers' sons to doctors' sons.

Until now, it has largely preserved that character, though differently. Shipbuilding has disappeared from Birkenhead and shipping is a much reduced activity. Fewer pupils come from the grim streets where I was brought up; my father was the vicar of a parish in the town. Instead the catchment area has widened out to include the whole of the Wirral, with its golf courses and commuter villages. Yet a quarter of its roll-call still comprises boys from families who are unable to find the fees in whole or in part.

This is because Birkenhead School has been benefiting from the Assisted Places Scheme introduced by Mrs Thatcher in 1981. In England and Wales there are about 30,000 children in the scheme. Four out of 10 of these enjoy a totally free education because their parents' income is below £10,000 a year. They do better at GCSE and at A-level than their peers in state schools. But the new Government is phasing out the scheme in order to provide extra funds for reducing class sizes in primary schools.

As a result, 300 schools like Birkenhead face a future in which they will no longer be able to admit all-comers who can pass their entrance examinations, regardless of parents' income. This is the fate awaiting a small but valuable part of the educational system unless

the schools concerned can replace the government funding. The Assisted Places Scheme is worth a lot of money each year to Birkenhead. In fact the school is determined to avoid an outcome in which its traditional social mix is extinguished and it moves up market, so that it becomes a school exclusively for the well-heeled middle classes of the area. It is appealing locally for funding to allow it to continue offering free places. Those of us who have been educated there, or live in or near Birkenhead, or run businesses there will have to rally round.

Likewise a call will also surely soon come from my Oxford college, Keble, where I went after doing National Service. Keble College is similar to Birkenhead School in being independent but not socially elite. The two institutions even share the same brick-clad, Gothic architecture of the late Victorian period, though Keble's is much the finer.

Keble was founded towards the end of the 19th century as a memorial to John Keble, poet, country clergyman, leader of the Catholic reform movement within the Church of England. When I was there, in the late 1950s, the Warden was still invariably a clergyman, though now, I am glad to say, it is one of the few Oxford colleges to be led by a woman, Professor Averil Cameron. From the beginning Keble College rejected any notion of social exclusiveness for it was set up specifically for "gentlemen wishing to live economically". It has never been remotely grand. Not all Oxbridge colleges are old and rich and exclusive.

The problem for Keble is that the Government is discussing whether to remove the additional £2,000 fee per student that the state pays to colleges to support the tutorial system, in effect one-to-one teaching. The financial consequences would be dire and are remarkably similar to the effect of the removal of the Assisted Places Scheme on Birkenhead School—Keble would lose 25 per cent of its annual income of some £4m.

Keble College has never been remotely grand. Not all Oxbridge colleges are old, rich and exclusive

Many other colleges at Oxbridge, apart from those whose benefactors in an earlier age handsomely endowed them, confront the same problem.

What is at risk is a form of education, in a sense a hybrid, that provides the same excellent teaching as the great public schools and ancient universities but without social exclusiveness. I think it is the best education you can get. But because the hybrid system has never had a name, because it has always been subsumed into something else, it has never been recognised for what it is. As a result this sector, really a way of education, is politically defenceless, though three recent prime ministers were more or less typical products—Harold Wilson, Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher.

The only way the hybrid system can be saved is by raising from private sources the substantial financial support that the Government removes. The schools and Oxbridge colleges concerned are used to raising charitable funds, but now their targets will have to be set much higher. At least they have a very good case to make.

I hope, however, they will avoid talking in terms of scholarships or bursaries. In the past scholarships were used to allow exceptionally clever youngsters to attend famous educational establishments. Both Keynes and Orwell were Eton scholars. The word "bursary", too, has a rather condescending feel to it. No, "free places" is the right description. Being open to all-comers of sufficient ability is the aim. It is an approach to education that deserves a long life.

For Tony Blair, the real enemy is within the walls of Cabinet



ANDREW MARR
THE CRISIS IN DOWNING ST

The Government has just collided with the first law of politics. The first law is brief: "Stuff Happens". Tony Blair, Gordon Brown et al had long known that they would tackle welfare. The right way would have been to have opened a broad national debate, beginning with the oddities of the system; then to publish public consultation papers; and only then, slowly but surely, to home in on the choices. Instead, Stuff Happened. After the lone-parter benefit cut, the Government had made enough enemies inside Whitehall to ensure that internal papers were leaked. Ministers responded to the disability-paper leaks, and the response of one of them, David Blunkett, was leaked in turn. Furore! The debate had started, all right, but was out of control right from the start.

This has been by far the biggest crisis of the Blair government in its first six months. It has been like one of those explosive family arguments that erupt in close-packed private houses up and down the country at this time of year after one too many bottles of the cooking whisky: after six hectic, overworked and emotional months, ministers have been beating each other about welfare cuts with a passion that has to be heard to be believed. Folly, treachery, gutlessness and panic are some of the milder charges being laid.

From the perspective of the most hard-line modernisers, the "flinchers" are weak reeds, broken by the first gust of cold wind. They are not tough. They have no vision. They are not new or modern. On the other side, the modernisers are seen as heartlessly and woefully incompetent. Harriet Harman in particular is portrayed as a naive ideologue, who has swallowed a package of measures from the Treasury and civil servants that better politicians, such as her Tory predecessor Peter Lilley, rejected with a snort of "whaddya take me for?" laughter.

I am assured that, though there will be a radical rethink of policy, people who really are disabled and cannot work won't be penalised. Who defines disabled, and how, is of course at issue. But Blair has told friends he won't be standing at the next election, having damaged the lives of genuinely vulnerable



Disabled people protesting yesterday at the gates of Downing Street against proposed cuts in their benefits
Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

and hard-up people. He is surely well aware that some of his most loyal New Labour supporters are angry and suspicious about all this; and that the voters' demands of him include fair play for the poor.

There is, in short, a tempo-rising and calming mood about. Yesterday Baroness Hollis, Minister for the Disabled, was using the language of compromise, stressing the proposals were merely "a paper put up by officials" that wouldn't be swallowed whole. David Blunkett is to sit alongside Harman on Tony Blair's committee looking into the issue.

And it is perfectly possible that Blair will deliver welfare reforms that make the system work better without betraying Labour's best instincts. There will be a tough look at who gets what and why. Given the huge increase in invalidity benefit payouts that is hardly surprising. There are well-off people getting benefits they don't need, while many more, including the million pensioners living below the poverty line, don't get enough. If benefits could be better targeted, there would be no uprising of protest.

Ministers will also reflect on the fact that it is vastly more difficult to get coverage of welfare

changes where there are no leaks or cabinet rows: the "new deal" for the young unemployed gets going next month. It is enormously important and enormously ignored.

So what useful lessons can Blair draw from the row? First, that one of the very few pressures on him that means anything is cabinet. A few grumbling chaps with beards are still a formidable force, and New Labour cannot afford the kind of split that opened, however briefly, this weekend.

The huge Labour Commons majority and the idle incompetence of the Tory opposition during the past six months mean that Westminster has been neither check nor balance for Mr Blair. No party showdown looms: its constitutional changes mean that activists don't have the platforms for protest they used to have; anyway, most of them want to be loyal and are keeping their mouths shut, even at the expense of badly bitten tongues.

He has recently been blaming the media, still only half-seriously, for trying to fill in for the Conservatives as the opposition—"and that's not your job"—but in truth, few newspapers are taken seriously in Downing Street. So long as Murdoch

Looking at the group of people around Blair and occupying the main cabinet positions, I'd rate the chances of avoiding trouble at less than zero. Just as Thatcher started in 1979 with a cabinet that was non-Thatcherite, even anti-Thatcherite, and called it carefully, trying to reshape it in her image, so Blair will be well aware that his cabinet is not really New Labour at all. His closest supporters speak often in private about what would happen to the modernising project if he were to be hit by the proverbial bus... or perhaps, more appropriately, a motorised wheelchair. They are not sanguine.

Just as Thatcher never found enough Thatcherites, and found that some people turned against her, so there will never be enough Blairites. Further, Blair's first cabinet comprises more big and difficult personalities than the Thatcher cabinets of 1979-83. His "wets" will be less wet than her wets.

Already some of them feel they have woken up inside a radical right government. For those who still call themselves socialists—at least in private when the bedroom door is shut and the lights are out—this has come as a particularly unpleasant shock. The Prime Minister is not, perhaps, much concerned. Certainly his public response, which was to tell them to get stuffed, and to do so in the *Daily Mail*, was hardly calculated to soothe. It was the kind of thing she would have done. But there are limits to the power of presidential politics inside a system of cabinet government—as Margaret Thatcher can testify.

In this case, the Prime Minister's instincts are not the same as those of David Blunkett, Robin Cook or Frank Dobson. He is a progressive politician, but he is not Labour under the skin, as they are. He must punish the leakers and stick to the broad course he has set. But he must also prevent a serious split at the top of government.

The events of the past few days have been a warning, not simply about the difficulty of managing the news, but also about the importance of Labour's values, and its faith in itself as the party of decency. To prosper, Blair's smooth-chinned modernisers need to work in relative harmony with their bearded friends (John Prescott and Clare Short are hereby awarded honorary beards, this being Christmas). They were all, after all, elected as New Labour—not simply as New.

India: where middle-class life is valued, and the poor are another species



PETER POPHAM
ON HUMAN GUINEA PIGS

DELHI—The single most obnoxious thing about living in a country as poor as India—the thing one feels most uncomfortable about getting used to—is the discrepancy in the way human lives are valued. It's a commonplace of journalism that, in news values, 4,000 washed away in a cyclone in Bangladesh is the equivalent of 40, or four, killed closer to home. Sitting in London, it's easy enough to find acceptable explanations: it

happened far away, these are countries of which we know little, such disasters happen all too often. It's easy to persuade oneself that the discrepancy is not down to anything so fundamental as a failure of humanity.

Living in India, however, such discrepancies are much harder to rationalise away. A tiny fraction of the population here is as well off and privileged as the likes of me, or more so. A large majority are still today, six years after liberalisation began to unfreeze the economy, living on next to nothing, a few hundred pounds a year. For the pampered few there is private medical care, private schooling, chauffeurs and servants. For the many there are schools without teachers, hospitals without equipment, buses that plunge into ravines.

For us wealthy ones, life is as dear as it is in the West. Middle-class tiny tot gets squashed under a bus and "the safety of our children" is all over the papers for days. Last month more than 60 "Dalis" (untouchables), mostly women and children, were massacred in the middle of the night in rural Bihar by a private army of feudal

landlords. Of course it was front page news, but there was a strong undertone to the reporting of, "well, what do you expect in rural Bihar?"

Ties of caste and family mean everything here: the ties that bind all citizens together mean very little. In the relations between strangers there is an undercurrent of brutality and callous disregard—watch that ragged fellow on crutches skip across the road as the official car careoms towards him—that makes ordinary British behaviour seem amazingly courteous.

As a journalist, one becomes sensitive to this. So the headline on the front page of the *Times of India* the other day that started "It's unethical to use human beings as guinea pigs..." naturally caught my eye.

The gist of the story was as follows. Twenty years ago, India's foremost cancer research organization, the Institute of Cytology and Preventive Oncology, initiated a research project, unusually ambitious for India, into cervical cancer. The first indication of incipient cervical cancer is "dysplasia", a lesion in the cervix. It can only be detected by a test, and if de-

tected it can be treated by a simple operation which halts the potential malignancy in its tracks. This is a very common operation. But the great majority of such dysplasias—over 90 per cent—if left untreated, do not develop into cancer but in time merely clear up on their own. In their study the Indian doctors wanted to observe the progress of cervical dysplasia, to see what they could glean about why some of them became cancerous while others disappear.

The knowledge such an investigation could produce would obviously be useful in the future treatment of the condition—and the results have in fact helped the national cancer programme develop screening guidelines. But there was an obvious problem with the research, which more eagle-eyed readers will already have spotted: namely, how to get the co-operation of the subjects.

Present them with the facts—you have this dysplasia, if we operate it will go away and you will be fine, if we don't it may become cancerous, but it will be interesting for us to observe this process and afterwards you can

have a hysterectomy—and it's not hard to predict how any woman in possession of her senses would react.

To circumvent this problem, the research team kept the 1,100 women selected for the research, all of whom had dysplasia, in the dark about what was going on, and did not attempt to elicit their written consent to it. By the end of the study, 71 of them had developed malignancies. Well, retort the doctors involved, at the time, under Indian guidelines, we were not required to obtain written consent. In any case, we couldn't have done. The women involved were illiterate.

They were not, in other words, of our sort, to be cherished and informed and treated with respect. They belonged to that huge, sometimes threatening but often extremely convenient Other. No one is saying that they were treated sadistically, with the brutishness of the Japanese or the Nazis in World War Two. But they were coolly watched while, all unbeknownst to them, their harmless lesions grew into malignant tumours. And there's something about that that freezes the blood.

I set off with the science journalist who broke the story, Ganapathi Mudur, to try to find some of the survivors. Following leads from a report in *The Pioneer*, we drove to a place called Allipur in the smoggy, ramshackle suburbs north of Delhi and found the women mentioned without difficulty. But then the trail went cold. The women talked vaguely about arrogant doctors, about being dumped in the middle of Delhi without transport home, but when pressed harder it turned out that the study they were involved in started in 1991, three years after the one we were interested in had finished. We made our excuses and left, gnashing our teeth at the sloppiness of Indian journalism.

This is an old story. Theoretically it couldn't happen today: written consent has been required since the early 1980s. But several doctors told me, off the record, that even today consent is rarely taken, and that most research is still done by subterfuge. I can't prove it, I haven't found anybody who will stand up and say it's happened to them. But I have a nasty suspicion it's true.

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Juzo Itami

Yoshihiro Ikeuchi (Juzo Itami), actor, film director and writer: born Kyoto, Japan 15 May 1933; married 1960 Kazuko Kawakita (marriage dissolved), 1969 Nobuko Miyamoto (two sons); died Tokyo 20 December 1997.

His father, Mansaku Itami, was a well-known film-maker, scriptwriter and essayist, born in Ehime on the southern island of Shikoku, and there Juzo Itami spent much of his childhood and youth. It was natural that he should follow in his father's footsteps. But from the start he was a rebel against the stifling conventions of Japanese society.

He attended Matsuyama Minami High School, where one of his friends was the future Nobel prize-winning novelist Kenzaburo Oe, who has left us a striking portrait of young Itami in his book of essays *Kaifuku suru kazoku* (1995), well translated by Stephen Snyder as *A Healing Family* (1996). In the essay "Sui Generis" Oe tells how the writer Ryutaro Shiba described Itami admiringly as an *jin*, a word Oe had to look up in the *Kojien* dictionary: "jin: Someone who is different from the norm; a superior person... A person who practises mysterious arts; a wizard, a foreigner."

When they first met, "Itami was already in the midst of a battle with the administration over

the compulsory uniform rule". Oe says his friend suffered from infringements of his human rights - "oppression, bigotry, discrimination". He was unable to attend a university because he was expelled from school and could not sit the university entrance exam. So he started to work as an illustrator. "But there might have been a smoother, happier way for him to have realised his great potential." He was to remain a lonely individual, an outsider of genius.

Itami moved to Tokyo in 1960, and entered the Daiei movie company as an actor. He specialised in supporting roles, as in Kon Ichikawa's *Otoko* ("Younger Brother") and Yasuzo Masumura's *Nise daigaku sei* ("Fake University Student"), both issued in 1960. In the same year he married Kazuko Kawakita. He left Daiei in 1961, and started writing talented literary essays, as his father had done. He played small parts in Nicholas Ray's 1963 film *5 Days at Peking* alongside Charlton Heston and Ava Gardner, and in Richard Brooks's *Lord Jim* (1965) with Peter O'Toole.

He joined the Nikkatsu Movie Co in 1964, and played supporting parts in his "cynical intellectual" vein in a number of movies including Nagisa Oshima's 1967 *Nippon shunka ko* ("A Treatise on the Japanese Bawdy Song") and Ichikawa's 1975 adaptation of Soseki Natsume's classic *Wagahai wa nako dearu* ("I Am a Cat"). His acting career made a big step forward when he appeared in Yoshitomo Mori's 1983 box-office success *Kazoku Genui* ("Family Game"). He won acting awards for best supporting actor, and an Emmy for his Prince Genji in the classic television series.

But for Itami acting was just a means of becoming a director. In 1984 he was at last able to script and direct his first cinematic success, *Ososhiki* ("Funeral"), a wry, wickedly satirical comedy about the con-



The first 'noodle western': a scene from Itami's 1986 satire *Tampopo*

Photograph: Kobal Collection

ventions of Japanese funeral ceremonies in which an elderly man dies, very improbably, of a heart attack after dining on an avocado. The whole drama is about the would-be-solemn yet comical way his bourgeois son and daughter-in-law strive to carry out the ceremonies according to precise rules. Itami's second wife Nobuko appeared in this and all his subsequent films, and it was a very big hit in Japan.

In 1986, he wrote and directed *Tampopo* ("Dandelion"), a cruel satire about the "gourmet boom" of the affluent Eighties. It was called "the first noodle western" because it was set in a down-and-out cheap ramen (instant noodles) joint. A truck driver falls for the proprietress and shows her how to transform her dump into a gourmet rendezvous priding itself upon serving the best bowl of ramen in town. True to the best western movie tradition, he drives off into

the sunset. There are several realistic portraits of Japanese and their comic attitudes towards food. It attracted large audiences in Japan but also in the United States and especially in France, that temple of superior cuisine, where all the little ramen shops catering to the Japanese in the Opéra area began to boom, and served many foreign customers.

There followed a string of satirical successes, all starring Itami's wife, and dealing in an almost instructional documentary manner with various controversial themes: money in *Marital no onna* ("A Taxing Woman", 1987) and its sequel in 1989; sex in *Ageman* ("Good Luck Girl", 1990) and gangster violence in *Minbo no onna* ("Gang-fighting Woman", 1992).

Serious troubles for Itami began when the *yakuza* mob retaliated by sending five hit men to attack him with knives, inflicting severe wounds. But Ita-

mi recovered and went on undaunted to make more disturbing films like *Daitoya* ("The Great Patient") in 1995, a comedy on stomach cancer which is also a profound meditation on death, and the 1996 *Supermarket Woman* laying bare hidden supermarket malpractices. In 1995 he also made a film based on his friend Oe's writings, *A Quiet Life*.

But misfortune continued to shadow Juzo Itami's existence. During a showing of *Daitoya*, an ultra-rightist slashed the screen in protest against *Minbo no onna*'s alleged defilement of the Japanese flag. The police had to provide armed guards for Itami and his wife, but even this had its comic side, for in *Marital no onna* we see Nobuko Miyamoto performing in her hilarious super-production of *Antony and Cleopatra* with a cop following her everywhere, disguised as a spear-toting Roman.

The final blow to Itami's self-esteem came from scurrilous gossip about his sex life in *Flash*, one of the cheap sensational weeklies now proliferating in Japan. Revelations about Itami's involvement with a 26-year-old girl, with paparazzi photos to prove them, were to appear in the 22 December number. Itami denied all the charges, but as he wrote in one of his farewell notes, "to prove my innocence" he jumped from the roof of his eight-storey block.

He was dead on arrival at the hospital. The inquest showed he had been drinking heavily. He stipulated that no funeral ceremonies should be held. Instead, Oe and his family will watch videos of all his films, that let a breath of fresh air into the stagnant life of Japanese movies, now at last showing a revival, thanks to his uncompromising efforts.

— James Kirkup

Franco Di Bella

Franco Di Bella, journalist: born Milan 19 January 1927; Editor, *Corriere della Sera* 1977-81; married (one son); died Milan 20 December 1997.

"I have only ever had three masters," Franco Di Bella liked to say, "my readers, my editors and my conscience." Unfortunately for those who lived through the tumultuous years when he was editor of Italy's foremost newspaper, the *Corriere della Sera*, there was however a fourth master: the head of the P2 Masonic Lodge, Licio Gelli, who successfully used the paper as a mouthpiece for his subversive, anti-democratic propaganda.

Although widely respected for much of his career as a journalist's journalist, Di Bella will nevertheless go down in history as the man who allowed a national institution to be corrupted by one of the most insidious plots of post-war Italy. The P2 recruited a secret army of industrialists, politicians, intellectuals and journalists intent on overthrowing democracy and installing an authoritarian right-wing regime that would once and for all banish the Communist spectre from Italian public life.

The plot came close to realisation in the turbulent late 1970s. This was the period of Red Brigades terrorism, of the kidnapping and murder of the Christian Democrat leader Aldo Moro, of a thousand and one intrigues and conspiracy theories, into which the *Corriere* allowed itself to be sucked.

The paper ran into financial trouble in the middle of the decade but found itself unable to raise bank loans because its then editor, Piero Ottone, was considered too hostile to the perennially powerful Christian Democrats. *Corriere's* proprietors, the publishing house Rizzoli, dug themselves out of their hole by striking a dirty deal

with Gelli: he came up with the money, Ottone was fired, and the paper's editorial line shifted starkly to the right.

Di Bella, a faithful news editor and longtime crime reporter, was the man asked to step into the editor's chair and balance the conflicting editorial and proprietorial interests.

There followed a strange, alarming period in the newspaper's history. Baffling stories would appear on the front page one day, only to disappear the next (they are now believed to have been coded messages to and from various intelligence organisations). Strident editorials, particularly during the 55 days of the Moro kidnapping, would call for a suspension of democratic rights and the round-up of suspected leftist sympathisers on sight. An interview with Gelli that had been considered tendentious and dangerous by a number of senior editors suddenly appeared in print one day occupying a whole broadsheet page.

Di Bella's role in all this has been hotly contested. His friends argue he was compromised by his position and swayed emotionally by the murder of one of his journalists, but did his best to curb the worst of the excesses (preventing the firing of an anti-Masonic columnist, for example). But Di Bella was himself a full member of P2 (card number 1887) and never considered the path taken by many of his erstwhile colleagues - resignation.

When the P2 scandal was made public in 1981, Franco Di Bella was forced out and never worked in mainstream journalism again. Italy is a country with a considerable capacity for forgiveness, however, and the death notices that appeared over the weekend were universally sympathetic, barely mentioning the P2 scandal at all.

— Andrew Gumbel



Itami: outsider of genius

Professor Ronald Gulliford

Ronald Gulliford, educationist: born Manchester 8 December 1920; Educational Psychologist, Bolton Education Committee 1949-51; Lecturer in Education, Birmingham University 1951-65, Senior Lecturer 1965-75, Professor of Special Education 1975-86 (Emeritus), Dean of the Faculty of Education 1979-81; CBE 1986; married 1949 Alison Dawe (died 1971; two sons, two daughters); died Birmingham 30 November 1997.

Ronald Gulliford was for 35 years a luminary of the Department of Education at Birmingham University and from 1975 until 1986 its Professor of Special Education. It would be difficult to overstate his influence on the academic study of educational needs and on the whole field of special education in Britain.

Developing from the pioneering research and theory in the field of child psychology and child development earlier in the century of people such as A. Gesell, Susan Isaacs, C. Burt and F.J. Schonell, his work has found wide practical application. He would not have considered himself a successful man, however, or even have thought about success. He was concerned with himself not at all, but with children, especially those by chance or accident handicapped or limited; with education and development; with improvement and betterment.

At the time of his appointment as Lecturer in 1951, the Birmingham Department of Education, under Edwin Peel, expanding and ready to be adventurous, was building up Educational Psychology. Gulliford was promoted to a Senior Lectureship in 1965, and 10 years later appointed to a new Chair

for Special Education, the first such Chair in England. By this time he was known not only in Britain but widely in the world, for his stints as Dean of the Faculty of Education at Birmingham, his Presidency of the Association for Special Education 1962-64, for his training programmes for Commonwealth and foreign teachers, and for his chairmanship of the Education Advisory Committee of Central Television.

In 1973 the Minister for Education, Margaret Thatcher, had asked him to serve on a committee of enquiry "into the education of children and young people handicapped by disabilities of body or mind", under the chairmanship of Mary Warnock. The brief was broad and the subject full of complexity and wide-ranging enquiry. And it was not until March 1978 that the report was published, under the

changed title "Report of the Committee of Enquiry into Special Education". Gulliford had a considerable but characteristically temperate and helpful influence in widening the scope and focusing the vision of the committee.

He was born in 1920, the second son of a blacksmith originally of Somerset mining stock. The family moved to Gloucester when Ronnie was four, his father working in the Gloucester Railway Wagon and Carriage Company. His son inherited from him a liberal and progressive cast of mind, love of learning and merry humour. He was lucky in his schooling at an excellent elementary school (Calton Road) and then on a scholarship at the Crypt School. He acted in school plays - I remember a thoughtful, wondering Miranda; wrote poetry, debated, played the piano, including some zippy jazz, found-

ed in the sixth form what he called wryly, tongue in cheek, the first Gloucester Group of Communist Intellectuals, and played in the first XV and XI. He was from an early age a keen naturalist and hill walker, and a music lover. In his private reading he ventured into philosophy, sociology, psychology, and modern art, and used to get his close friends to venture with him. Yet there was nothing pretentious about him.

Unfortunately, despite the urging of the headmaster, his parents felt that they would not be able to support him at university, although he would almost certainly have won a scholarship. It was well before the time of readily available grants. So in 1939 he enrolled at Salford Training College for Teachers in Birmingham for the two-year Teaching Certificate, on a loan of £200 a year

from Gloucester Education Committee. Thus his connection with Birmingham and the foundation of his career began.

As a member of the Peace Pledge Union, when the Second World War came, he registered as a conscientious objector and was directed into teaching. While teaching full-time at Maidstone and then St Albans, he enrolled at Birkbeck College and gained his BA in Psychology. In 1948, still teaching, he took unpaid leave and took the diploma course in Educational Psychology at Birmingham University. He was appointed Educational Psychologist for Bolton Education Committee in 1949. Two years later, Birmingham called him back to be a Lecturer in Education.

There was a fine consistency and completeness in his professional life, and he must have



Gulliford: unpretentious

known how much he was appreciated, admired and liked. He had a wide and devoted following. Like the magnet which attracts and draws things towards itself simply by being itself, Gulliford attracted people by his simplicity, his unpretentiousness, his quiet, serious involvement in all he did and all he worked for and worked

with, as well as by his vision and sense of purpose. His achievement was the result of deep commitment, sense of purpose, love of the work and of course resolute unremitting industry, all done with seriousness but no solemnity.

But fate struck him two terrible blows. It took away his loved wife, Alison, before he was 50; she was killed by a severe fall on ice at the skating rink to which she had taken one of the children. Ronnie Gulliford did not remarry, and wonderfully managed to sustain the family of four children. Two of them followed him in psychology, one in medicine and one a research chemist in Australia. The three in England were able to be with him in the last few peaceful hours after fate had left him for many months stranded with Alzheimer's disease.

— Peter Bayley

David Rousset

David Rousset, writer, politician and activist: born Roanne, France 18 January 1912; died Paris 13 December 1997.

David Rousset was a resistance fighter, an intellectual, a Gaullist deputy and a self-defined activist of the Left. His long list of accomplishments does not, however, serve to classify an individual who was reviled in his time by the fellow-travelling Left (who he tried to force to face realities) and who was a distinctive moral voice in a turbulent century. There is something of the crystal spirit about Rousset,

who lived through appalling times but who refused to compromise, and who remained an inspiration to many who were politically active.

Rousset was born in 1912 at Roanne, the son of a metalworker. He was involved in socialist politics and then in Trotskyism during the social turbulence of the 1930s. Before the Second World War he was a journalist and contributor to many publications (including *Time* magazine).

His Resistance activities led him to be captured by the Gestapo in October 1943. He was deported and worked in the salt mines, and then was sent to Buchenwald. He sur-



Rousset: facts on the gulags

vived in the camps despite his Trotskyist background and was liberated by the American army in April 1945. On his capture he had celebrated a

certain embonpoint but on his return he was a bag of bones.

He immediately set out to write his experiences and his memoir revealed in personal and detailed terms the extermination machine of Nazi Germany. His *L'Univers Concentrationnaire* is a harrowing account of the camps but also reveals the systems and the mechanism of Nazi Germany and its regime. The book received the Renaudot prize in 1946.

Rousset entered politics at the side of Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus in the short-lived political group *Rassemblement Démocratique*

Révolutionnaire, but he began to distance himself from them as the Cold War gained in intensity. In particular he decided to reveal the existence of the "gulag archipelago" in the Soviet Union and was one of the founders in November 1949 of the International Committee Against Concentration Camps. Spain, China and other countries also came under investigation and condemnation.

It was with this issue of the Soviet camps that Rousset entered French public life with a shattering effect. Coming shortly after the trial in Paris over Victor Kravchenko's 1949 book *I Chose Liberty* on the same

theme, Rousset's exposition caused the Communist Party to react. Rousset published an article in *Le Figaro* on the Soviet labour camps, using the term "gulag" before it became current. Through Louis Aragon and Pierre Dax the Communist journal *Les Lettres Françaises* brought Rousset to court for defamation. The court case, which lasted from November 1950 to July 1951, was the occasion for a succession of witnesses to testify to the horror of the camps. Rousset published his own book *Pour la vérité sur les camps* in 1951. He won the court case but was sent to Coventry by the intellectual Left.

Rousset broke with Sartre and his circle over the camps. Although no rational defence could be made of the Soviet system, Sartre rose to the challenge. While Sartre ran up a moral balance sheet and found Stalin in the black, Rousset went on to the offensive against the camp system. He continued to work to make known the facts about concentration camps and labour camps as well as to write prolifically in leading journals in France and America, and continued to write books about both the camps and general political topics.

In the 1960s he became sympathetic to General de Gaulle; he admired Gaullist foreign

policy with its assertion of the autonomy of French action. In June 1967 he warned of the dangers to Israel in the Gaullist bulletin, and called for the intervention of the great powers to guarantee Israel's existence.

In June 1968 he was elected left-wing Gaullist deputy for the Isère (Vienne). However he resigned the Gaullist whip in November 1970 in disagreement with the direction the movement was then taking, and in 1974 supported François Mitterrand. Rousset's later works included a discussion of war and the possibilities of nuclear holocaust.

— D. S. Bell

DEATHS

KALMUS: Anna (Nusy) on 14 December 1997, aged 89, died at home. Greatly missed by her three children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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Birthdays

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Close and Stone Schools, 68; Mr Rayner Unwin, chairman, Unwin Enterprise, 72.

Anniversaries

Births: James Gibbs, architect, 1682; Sir Richard Arkwright, inventor of the spinning frame, 1732; Jean-François Champollion, Egyptologist and decipherer of the Rosetta Stone, 1790; Charles-Augustin Sainte-Beuve, writer and critic, 1804; Joseph Hermin Gerard Fokker, aircraft designer, 1899. On this day: HMS *Bounty*, commanded by William

Bligh, sailed from Spithead for the South Seas, 1787; Joseph Hansom patented a type of cab, 1834; the Alwyck Theatre, London, opened, 1905; in Germany, Marins Van der Lubbe, a Dutchman, was found guilty of setting fire to the Reichstag and sentenced to death, 1933; British forces took Benghazi, 1941; 117 Oliphant, journalist and traveller, 1888; Thomas William Hodgson Crosland, journalist, 1924; Anthony Herman Gerard Fokker, aircraft designer, 1899. On this day: HMS *Bounty*, commanded by William

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Frithebert, St John of Kanit, St Servulus, the Ten Martyrs of Crete, St Thordac and Saints Victoria and Anatolia.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Emma Taylor, "Dress and Embroidery", 2.30pm.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. P Company, Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. (best provided by the Coldstream Guards).

Japanese deepens hit 30-m

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Magnox merger

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Japanese gloom deepens as shares hit 30-month low

Fears of more corporate failures and deepening pessimism about the state of the Japanese economy sent share prices in Tokyo down to a 30-month low.

Meanwhile, the credit rating agency Moody's Service announced that it had downgraded the sovereign debt of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and South Korea to junk bond status. Stephen Vines in Hong Kong reviews the carnage.

Remarkably the downgrading of credit standings in four Tiger economies yesterday did little to shake South East Asian markets whereas in Tokyo the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) downgrading of Japan's economic growth outlook for the coming year was received very badly.

The IMF is now predicting that the economy will only grow by up to 1.1 per cent. Just two months ago it was forecasting growth of 2.1 per cent. Japan's Economic Planning Agency has also revised its economic estimates down but said over the weekend that it expected the economy to grow by 1.9 per cent in the coming financial year.

Neither prediction is very encouraging. Investors responded by marking down shares on the key Nikkei-225 index by 3.4 per cent, taking it to a low of 14,569 points before the market finally closed at 14,799. In the last four trading days the Japanese stock

market has plunged by more than 10 per cent.

At this level the market is well below the psychologically important 15,000 barrier which many analysts had predicted would not be breached without finding buying support.

However the buying support was notably absent yesterday. Moreover the market is now in danger of plunging into a self feeding circle of decline. This is because the biggest holders of shares are Japanese banks, whose asset base is unusually dependent on equity holdings.

The government's tight fiscal policy is causing real pain. Aware of investors' concerns the Japanese government has made some concessions designed to stimulate economic activity. The biggest measure, announced last Thursday, was a two trillion yen (£9.2bn) tax rebate. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party is also proposing a massive bond issue to raise 10 trillion yen (£46bn) for the Deposit Insurance Corp. to protect depositors and help boost capital at troubled financial firms.

These measures have failed to impress investors who are still saying that the government has acted too little, too late. The government however insists that its actions will be enough to produce economic growth of close to 2 per cent next year.

Although the sell-off of the Japanese market has probably been slightly overdone and some bargain hunting is likely to lift shares in the near term, the underlying problems of the economy and an expected squeeze on corporate profits suggest that the stock market will not be able to sustain a recovery any time soon.

Meanwhile the selling pres-

sure on the Japanese yen mounted again yesterday with the yen falling to around ¥130.5 against the United States dollar. Last week the Bank of Japan made an aggressive foray into the foreign exchange market to stop the yen losing value. This represented a backtracking of the previous policy which was to allow the yen to find its own value and sent uncertain signals to investors.

Yesterday, the Bank of Japan retreated to the sidelines and the yen slid back around one US cent. However, the government does not want the yen to fall and some market rumours suggest that it will try on Christmas Day to push up the value of the yen in the Japanese market which will remain open.

Whether this would be sufficient to shift investor sentiment towards the Japanese currency remains doubtful. However, as yesterday's events in Asian markets yet again proved, investor sentiment is hard to predict. Just a month ago Moody's savage downgrading of bonds and bank deposits in Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and, to a slightly less extent, in Thailand would have sent their financial markets into free fall.

However, these markets are now sufficiently battered as to be virtually shock resistant. The stock market response was quite modest by the standards of extreme volatility which now prevail in the region. The Thai market suffered most, declining by 2 per cent. Both the Malaysian and Korean market slipped just 1 per cent, while the Indonesian market actually managed to inch forward a few points. Their currencies eased a touch but more on end-year balancing of books than the Moody's downgrading.



A dealer holding his head as he looks at share prices during the afternoon session at the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday. Japanese share prices dropped 3.4 per cent or 515.49 points, amid growing pessimism about the country's economy, to end the session at 14,799.40
Photograph: AFP

Fresh offer from Bupa secures Care First

Bupa yesterday won control of Care First after it upped its offer to 170p a share, valuing the nursing home operator at £273m. Keith Bradshaw, Care First's chairman, and his family will collect more than £21.5m from selling shares in the business. Mr Bradshaw also stands to make almost £134,000 from share options and is in line for a £200,000 pay-off. He will remain with Bupa as a consultant and non-executive director for a "transitional period," to oversee the acquisition.

Baroness Brenda Dean, former print union leader and a non-executive director of Care First, is also entitled to more than £31,000 after controversially negotiating a new two year contract weeks after Bupa made its first approach for the group.

Bupa yesterday amassed more than 50 per cent of Care First's shares to seal victory in an escalating bid battle with Chai Patel, Care First's former chief executive who left the group in August after a boardroom bust-up with Keith Bradshaw.

Chai Patel, backed by HSBC and Barings Capital, the venture capitalist group, approached Care First on Friday to discuss a share bid of up to 170p a share in an attempt to trump Bupa's original 150p offer. However, Care First's board are understood to have approached Bupa about the new deal and it decided to weigh in with a knock-out bid.

Mr Patel said yesterday: "I am deeply disappointed but this is great news for Care First's shareholders. Now I will regroup and take time to look at opportunities in the health care sector and elsewhere."

Paul Saper of Laing & Buisson, the specialist healthcare analysts, said: "It is ironic that Chai Patel was removed from the board and yet he was instrumental in getting a much higher price for Care First. His intervention has given more than £2m extra to Keith Bradshaw."

Bupa plans to overhaul the Care First estate and introduce more medical facilities to homes to make them a viable alternative to hospitals.

— Andrew Yates

Birds Eye Wall's referred to MMC over supply deals

Unilever's Birds Eye Wall's ice-cream business has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission over its supply deals with wholesalers. It is the second time in three years that the company has been accused of freezing out ice cream rivals. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports

The decision to refer the issue to the MMC was taken by the Office of Fair Trading which said the existing structure of the distribution system restricts competition between wholesalers and between ice cream manufacturers.

Birds Eye's delivers its wrapped ice-creams to shops by a network of 32 exclusive operators, known as concessionaires. They undertake not to distribute other makes of ice-cream. The OFT said rival wholesalers, if supplied, received ice cream on less favourable terms. It said the existing structure would restrict choice and possibly lead to consumers paying higher prices.

John Bridgeman, Director-general of fair trading, said: "At the end of the day, it is consumers who lose out if Wall's distribution policy restricts the choice of ice creams in a shop, or makes it difficult for manufacturers to enter or expand in the market."

The MMC said the practices under investigation would include:

- the refusal to supply wrapped ice-cream to wholesalers who are not dedicated distributors, unless it is on less favourable terms;
- the granting of discounts to retailers who buy Wall's ice-cream from dedicated distributors

but not to those who buy it from other suppliers.

Mr Bridgeman said: "Wall's concessionaires have an excellent reputation with retailers. But there are other wholesalers who would like to provide just as good a service." He said the current system operated by Wall's encouraged retailers to buy ice-cream from the Wall's dedicated wholesalers even if it meant they could not get other brands of ice-cream.

The OFT said it would have liked Wall's to have agreed to give equal terms to concessionaires and independent wholesalers for doing the same business. However, it said that though Wall's had been willing to make some concessions they did not meet all the OFT's concerns.

Birds Eye Wall's said it welcomed the MMC decision but did not agree with the OFT that its system restricts consumer choice. It said it has been in discussions with the OFT since February 1996 over various aspects of its distribution systems and planned to introduce changes in 1998.

Tony Pearce, the company's sales director said: "We look forward to the new enquiry and are confident that these new proposals, which amount to a restructuring of our terms and discounts will put beyond doubt the fairness of the system."

The latest move by the OFT follows an MMC inquiry into freezer exclusivity in the ice-cream trade in 1994. That investigation centred on the practice of Mars, Wall's and others of giving freezers to retailers as long as the shop only uses them for that manufacturer's products. The MMC found that the practice was not against the public interest.

Unilever shares melted slightly on the news, closing down 3.25p to 486.75p.

BNFL/Magnox merger means axe for 2,000

More than 2,000 nuclear power workers will be made redundant because of a Government decision to merge BNFL with Magnox Electric.

BNFL yesterday confirmed that approximately 10 per cent of the 19,000 workers at the two companies would lose their jobs as the two nuclear de-commissioning companies were brought together. John Birt, the energy minister, yesterday said the Government would transfer its shareholding in Magnox to BNFL, creating "better incentives for securing cost reductions."

Early next year, Magnox will become a wholly owned subsidiary of BNFL and take on the running of BNFL's two Magnox stations at Sellafield, Cumbria and Chapelcross, Scotland.

John Guinness, the chairman of BNFL, insisted the deal was a "win-win-win" for taxpayer, company and Government alike. BNFL would no

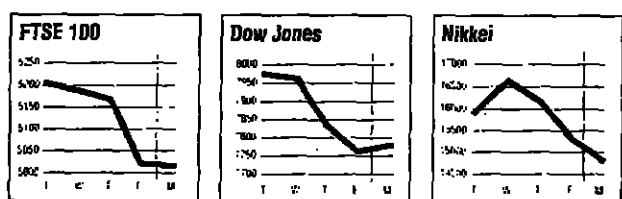
longer have to pay for Magnox profits. Combined expertise would also give the company a competitive edge in world markets for de-commissioning power stations and fuel. Mr Guinness said.

The Government is scaling down its commitment to pay billions of pounds in subsidy to Magnox for the cost of de-commissioning nuclear power stations, without which the merged company would have been bankrupt.

The Government will still allow the £3.7bn subsidy to rise by 4.5 per cent a year, but will cut out this year's increase, saving £600m. Gradual payments of the subsidy do not begin until 2006. It has also cut out altogether a "letter of comfort", established in 1990, without which Magnox would have been bankrupt owing to a £500m deficit.

— Andrew Verity

STOCK MARKETS



*Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

Indices	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5018.20	-2.00	-0.04	5367.30	4036.90	3.46
FTSE 250	4701.80	-3.30	-0.07	4963.80	4384.20	3.65
FTSE 350	2415.50	-1.10	-0.05	2570.50	2013.40	3.48
FTSE All Share	2360.10	-1.18	-0.05	2507.68	1989.78	3.48
FTSE SmallCap	2292.30	-2.80	-0.12	2407.40	2159.00	3.45
FTSE Pledging	1246.20	-1.80	-0.14	1316.50	1213.60	3.40
FTSE AIM	878.50	1.30	0.13	1138.00	863.90	1.08
Dow Jones	7776.46	-20.93	-0.27	8299.03	6353.21	1.76
Nikkei	14799.40	-515.49	-3.37	20810.79	14966.13	1.04
Hong Kong	10172.47	-233.34	-2.24	16820.31	8775.88	4.17
Dax	4043.02	-41.73	-1.02	4459.89	2833.78	1.85

INTEREST RATES

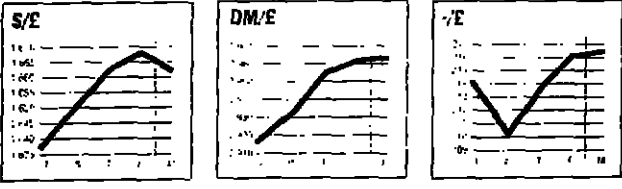


Money Market Rates	1 year	1 yr chg	10 year	1 yr chg	Long bond	1 yr chg
UK	7.69	1.25	7.70	0.70	6.36	6.23
US	5.81	0.31	5.97	0.18	5.72	5.90
Japan	0.73	0.27	0.72	0.15	0.63	2.54
Germany	3.71	0.46	3.97	0.68	5.25	5.85

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
Danka Bus Syst	265.00	26.00	10.88	Gen Cable	85.00	-4.50	-5.03
Blue Circle Inds	315.00	21.25	7.66	Skypharma	48.50	-2.50	-4.90
Legal and Gen	515.00	35.00	6.67	Bul Steel	130.50	-6.00	-4.58
Thames Water	875.00	14.00	1.57	Biocompare	457.50	-20.00	-4.19

CURRENCIES



Pound	at 5pm	Change	% Chg	Dollar	at 5pm	Change	% Chg
Dollar	1.6623	-0.0114	-0.68	Sterling	0.6016	+0.025p	0.5973
D-Mark	2.9613	+0.0101	0.6050	D-Mark	1.7291	+1.04p	1.5555
Yen	116.55	+1.33	1.13	Yen	130.27	+1.34	1.1408
£ index	104.50	+0.40	0.40	£ index	108.00	+0.10	0.9840

OTHER INDICATORS

at 5 pm	Close	Chg	% Chg	Index	Chg	% Chg	Next Up
Brent Oil (\$)	16.27	-0.14	-0.84	Oil	113.50	3.70	109.84 Jan
Gold (\$)	291.55	3.50	1.20	RPI	159.80	3.70	153.91 Jan
Silver (\$)	6.06	-0.03	-0.48	Russ Roubles	7.25	6.00	

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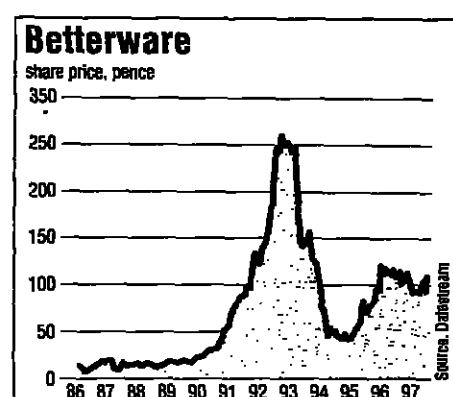
source: **Bloomberg**

www.bloomberg.com

source: Bloomberg

Betterware founder set to net £40m in mail order sale

Andrew Cohen, the Betterware founder, and his family will net more than £40m from the sale of his mail order company to the group's management. The agreed £117m deal closes the book on Betterware's colourful 13 years as a public company. But as our City Correspondent, Nigel Cope reports, even the final chapter is not without controversy.



Andrew Cohen said he would be sorry to part company with the business he bought for £253,000 from the receivers in 1983 but that it was time to move on. "It is a good price. Also my parents [who own half of the family stake] are in their 70s."

Mr Cohen said he planned to devote more time to his property business which specialises in commercial property in the Midlands and South-east. He said he may bring the business, Andrew Linton Holdings (Linton is his middle name) to the stock market in the next few years.

A keen racehorse owner, he said he was more interested in selling some of his stable than buying more. "But I'm particularly interested in how Sun Bay will get on at Kempton Park on Boxing Day," he said. The horse is second favourite.

The offer by the group's managing director Peter Hartley and finance director Paul Turner is 110p per share in cash valuing Betterware at £117m. The bid is financed by NatWest Equity Partners who said it was backing the management with a 3.5 year view, after which a flotation or trade sale would be considered.

Mr Cohen and his family currently control 47 per cent of Betterware. Under the terms of the deal, they will retain a 22 per cent stake in the new management company, Fenchurch

Place but will have no management input. Fenchurch Place will be run by Peter Hartley, Betterware's managing director and Paul Turner finance director.

Mr Cohen denied that the deal could disadvantage smaller shareholders or that Betterware had been a disappointment on the stock market. City critics have said that the executive directors bidding for the company have had a conflict of interest. But Mr Cohen claims: "Small investors knew that the family had a big stake when they bought in. And I think it has been a very good performing stock."

After going public in 1986, Betterware became one of the best-performing shares on the market in the early 1990s when its shares rocketed from around 20p to more than 250p. The company specialised in household products such as tea strainers and loafbats sold from mini-catalogues door-to-door. However, Mr Cohen attracted criticism when he sold £30m of shares in 1993 shortly before the company hit trading problems.

In 1994 it issued three profits warnings in five months and the shares crashed. It now has plans to expand into Eastern Europe.

Yesterday the shares closed 10.5p higher at 107.5p.

Family shares £35m after Southern deal

The ranks of newspaper millionaires swelled yesterday as two family-owned businesses were snapped up by bigger rivals. The Bailey family, headed by Peter Bailey, the group's chairman, will share £35m after their Gloucestershire business was bought by Southern Newspapers. Martin Williams, a commercial director, and Nick Priest, finance director who both married Bailey women, will also become millionaires. Bill Gibbs and his family stand to make almost £20m from the £52m sale of Home Counties Newspapers to Johnston Press.

The deals confirm the rapid consolidation

in the regional newspaper market in the past few years. The next big sale will be United News and Media's regional newspaper interests.

Tim Bowdler, chief executive of Johnston Press, said: "This is a continuation of the consolidation of a very fragmented industry. We are looking for more acquisitions." Home Counties produces titles such as the Hampstead and Highgate Express and the Ilford and Romford Recorder and the deal complements Johnston's existing titles in Southern England.

— Andrew Yates

Scotia's calamity highlights decline of the biotech babes

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

The biotech babes, once the lusty, unstoppable infants of the stock market, are again in danger of being thrown out with the bath water.

Scotia Holdings dealt the latest blow. After the stock market closed on Friday it disclosed the UK health authorities had turned down Tarabatic, a diabetic drug.

Yesterday the once-high flying drug share got its come-uppance, falling 52.5p to 265p. They were floated at 290p four years ago. Since then, they have been as low as 238.5p and, as the biobabes became the market's hot shot sector, as high as 808p.

Like so many of the breed, Scotia has lived on expectation and hope. Losses have piled up with a staggering £19.1m deficit achieved last year. But the blue-sky attitude has faded. Eventually, even in the fledgling drug sector, that crude requirement known as profits has to come into the equation. And few biotech are near to getting out of the red.

Scotia's latest calamity pulled the rest of what is an exceedingly fragile sector lower. Cantab Pharmaceuticals, once 1,072.5p, fell 25p to 640p; Chiroscience, formerly 514.5p, lost 16p to 216p, and Cornea 14.5p to 169.5p. It once achieved the dizzy height of 875p.

Others hit included ML Laboratories, one of the few in the black, off 4.5p to 82.5p (once 468.5p) and SkyPharma, down 2.5p to 48p against a 287.5p peak.

BioCompables International, where dwindling hopes of a US deal has lowered the shares from 1,420p, lost a further 20p to 457.5p after disclosing it expected a higher half year loss.

The big drug groups shrugged aside the problems of the junior faction. Glaxo Wellcome rose 2.2p to 1,416p and SmithKline Beecham 11p to 618p. Medeva had to contend with cautious comments from Lehman Brothers, ending off at 167p. The securities house, although putting a 300p valuation on the shares, has cut next year's profit estimate to £101.8m but holding this year's at £100m.

The rest of the stock market opened with a flourish of determination to keep alive the Christmas surge which has occurred with near-motonomous regularity in the past two decades.

After notching a 27.9 points gain Footsie faded, ending just 2 lower at 5,018.2. Turnover, considering the festive influences, was reasonably high but the market was largely featureless.

Legal & General, the insurance group, was the best performing blue chip, improving 35p to 515p. A bullish circular, with Panmure Gordon said to be the author, is rumoured to have; there is also the perennial talk of bid action. Other financials enjoyed support with Schroders 93p higher at 1,895p with some banking on a break up move.

British Steel was a victim of sterling's strength. It fell 6p to 130.5p, not much above its year's low. Engineer Weir lost 5p to 257.5p.

Vodafone had a busy session running vague bid stories. The shares gained 5p to 438p.

Thames Water, a casualty of Friday's blizzard, recovered nearly half its loss, rising 44p to 875p.

Retailers remained in their own land of unfulfilled Christmas dreams. As it became increasingly apparent festive trading would fall below expectations and many shopkeepers had over ordered Kingfisher dropped 18p to 83p and Marks & Spencer 7p to 576p. The Austin Reed off to 132.5p.

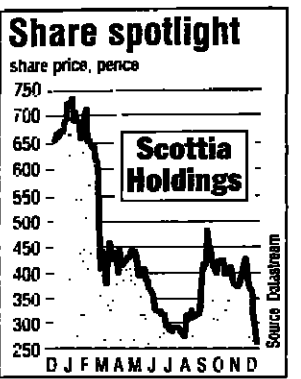
Action broke out on the newspaper pitch. Home Counties Newspapers surged 235p to 475p on the Johnston Press agreed £52m offer and Southern Newspapers edged forward 7p to 741p after paying £35m for unquoted Bailey Newspaper Group.

Care First, the health care group, moved ahead 17.5p to 169.5p following the revised Bupa £273m offer. The mbo at Betterware lifted the price 10.5p to 107.5p.

LucasVarity, helped by evidence of US interest, gained 8.75p to 214.5p. Danka Business Systems rallied further to 265p.

Azian, the computer struggle, added 6p to 54.5p on continuing talk of a Sherwood International strike.

French, a curtain group, tumbled 15p to 37.5p after warning profits would not reach market hopes of £1.1m.



High Low Stock

High	Low	Stock
14.5	14.0	Cornea
13.0	12.5	Cornea
12.5	12.0	Cornea
12.0	11.5	Cornea
11.5	11.0	Cornea
11.0	10.5	Cornea
10.5	10.0	Cornea
10.0	9.5	Cornea
9.5	9.0	Cornea
9.0	8.5	Cornea
8.5	8.0	Cornea
8.0	7.5	Cornea
7.5	7.0	Cornea
7.0	6.5	Cornea
6.5	6.0	Cornea
6.0	5.5	Cornea
5.5	5.0	Cornea
5.0	4.5	Cornea
4.5	4.0	Cornea
4.0	3.5	Cornea
3.5	3.0	Cornea
3.0	2.5	Cornea
2.5	2.0	Cornea
2.0	1.5	Cornea
1.5	1.0	Cornea
1.0	0.5	Cornea
0.5	0.0	Cornea

Price Chg YTD P/E Code

Price	Chg	YTD	P/E	Code
14.5	+0.5	11.0	1.0	Cornea
13.0	+0.5	10.0	1.0	Cornea
12.5	+0.5	9.0	1.0	Cornea
12.0	+0.5	8.0	1.0	Cornea
11.5	+0.5	7.0	1.0	Cornea
11.0	+0.5	6.0	1.0	Cornea
10.5	+0.5	5.0	1.0	Cornea
10.0	+0.5	4.0	1.0	Cornea
9.5	+0.5	3.0	1.0	Cornea
9.0	+0.5	2.0	1.0	Cornea
8.5	+0.5	1.0	1.0	Cornea
8.0	+0.5	0.0	1.0	Cornea
7.5	+0.5	-1.0	1.0	Cornea
7.0	+0.5	-2.0	1.0	Cornea
6.5	+0.5	-3.0	1.0	Cornea
6.0	+0.5	-4.0	1.0	Cornea
5.5	+0.5	-5.0	1.0	Cornea
5.0	+0.5	-6.0	1.0	Cornea
4.5	+0.5	-7.0	1.0	Cornea
4.0	+0.5	-8.0	1.0	Cornea
3.5	+0.5	-9.0	1.0	Cornea
3.0	+0.5	-10.0	1.0	Cornea
2.5	+0.5	-11.0	1.0	Cornea
2.0	+0.5	-12.0	1.0	Cornea
1.5	+0.5	-13.0	1.0	Cornea
1.0	+0.5	-14.0	1.0	Cornea
0.5	+0.5	-15.0	1.0	Cornea
0.0	+0.5	-16.0	1.0	Cornea
-0.5	+0.5	-17.0	1.0	Cornea
-1.0	+0.5	-18.0	1.0	Cornea
-1.5	+0.5	-19.0	1.0	Cornea
-2.0	+0.5	-20.0	1.0	Cornea

High Low Stock

High	Low	Stock
14.5	14.0	Cornea
13.0	12.5	Cornea
12.5	12.0	Cornea
12.0	11.5	Cornea
11.5	11.0	Cornea
11.0	10.5	Cornea
10.5	10.0	Cornea
10.0	9.5	Cornea
9.5	9.0	Cornea
9.0	8.5	Cornea
8.5	8.0	Cornea
8.0	7.5	Cornea
7.5	7.0	Cornea
7.0	6.5	Cornea
6.5	6.0	Cornea
6.0	5.5	Cornea
5.5	5.0	Cornea
5.0	4.5	Cornea
4.5	4.0	Cornea
4.0	3.5	Cornea
3.5	3.0	Cornea
3.0	2.5	Cornea
2.5	2.0	Cornea
2.0	1.5	Cornea
1.5	1.0	Cornea
1.0	0.5	Cornea
0.5	0.0	Cornea
0.0	-0.5	Cornea
-0.5	-1.0	Cornea
-1.0	-1.5	Cornea
-1.5	-2.0	Cornea
-2.0	-2.5	Cornea
-2.5	-3.0	Cornea
-3.0	-3.5	Cornea
-3.5	-4.0	Cornea
-4.0	-4.5	Cornea
-4.5	-5.0	Cornea
-5.0	-5.5	Cornea
-5.5	-6.0	Cornea
-6.0	-6.5	Cornea
-6.5	-7.0	Cornea
-7.0	-7.5	Cornea
-7.5	-8.0	Cornea
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-98.0	-98.5	Cornea
-98.5	-99.0	Cornea
-99.0	-99.5	Cornea
-99.5	-100.0	Cornea

Price Chg YTD P/E Code

1227 HSBC (H-KSP)	1452.00	-1.00	4.0	12.4	5729
425 Lloyds TSB Gr	736.00	+6.00	2.1	23.6	6396
664 Narwest Bk	1012.00	+2.00	3.7	17.5	1602
508 Ryl Bk Scot	742.00	-8.00	3.6	14.3	3219
588 Scanstarred	654.00	-1.00	3.0	11.1	1448
266 Woolwich	307.50	-2.50	-	21.3	3377

A bad year for economic punditry



**HAMISH
McRAE**
ON THE
EVENTS
OF 1997

Economists always get things wrong, but this year has seen some more spectacular misses than most.

The most obvious example of bad news not picked up by the deterioration in the East Asian economies, a process which clearly has some way to run. But there was also a failure to see good news, particularly with regard to the UK. Few saw the recovery in sterling, the continued low inflation, or the improvement in the current account, now clearly heading for a surplus of around £4bn.

Since this is the last column I will be writing in this slot this year so it seemed most helpful to try to identify the soft parts of next year's outlook - the areas where the mainstream forecasts may prove equally wrong. The best starting point is the International Monetary Fund's new World Economic Outlook, out at the weekend, because it compares what most good, sensible (but of course wrong) forecasters were saying at the beginning of the year, what actually happened, and what they are saying now.

Unsurprisingly, as the main organisation trying to pick up the pieces of the East Asian crisis, the IMF is preoccupied by the fact that it didn't see it coming. If you have to sign the cheques for the rescue, it is small comfort that other forecasters, and the financial markets, were equally blind. Unsurprisingly too,

because the story has still some way to run, the IMF can only offer a tentative explanation of what went wrong.

It cites several factors, but two stand out. One was the long period of regional over-investment. Because investment is supposed to be a good thing (unlike consumption) we have been trained to think that there cannot be too much of it. But actually it led to an imbalance just as serious as that of Latin America in the early 1980s, when the problem was over-consumption. Over-investment meant that the economies of the region had to grow faster and faster to keep in balance. Otherwise they would end up too many factories producing too many goods for the market, and financed by borrowed money. The moment growth faltered, the bubble burst.

The other fact was a financial panic. The collapse of East Asian share prices (by contrast to those of the rest of the world ex-Japan - see graph) made a bad situation worse. The sell-off affected all developing countries, including those in the Western hemisphere, but the collapse in East Asia was vastly more serious.

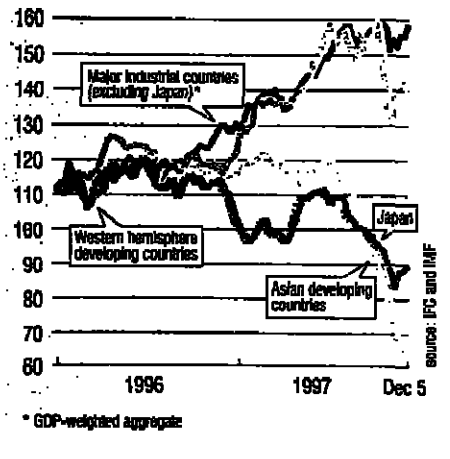
Looking ahead, what stands out? The IMF shows how everyone, including themselves, has been cutting growth forecasts for next year, and its best guess now is for world growth to be 0.8 per cent lower next year than it would otherwise have been. But it is still expecting growth next year to be 3.5 per cent, against 4.1 per cent this year.

But while that is fine as a starting-point, it would be surprising if it proved to be right, for it requires everything to go fairly well through the year: the bail-outs to be accomplished, growth in the US to remain solid, a continued recovery in Europe, the start of a decent recovery in Japan and so on. The risks, surely, are mostly on the downside, for we are heading into a period of global deflation, in which economies will behave in a different way than in previous cycles.

To put some perspective on this, think back 25 years, for I think we are seeing in the East

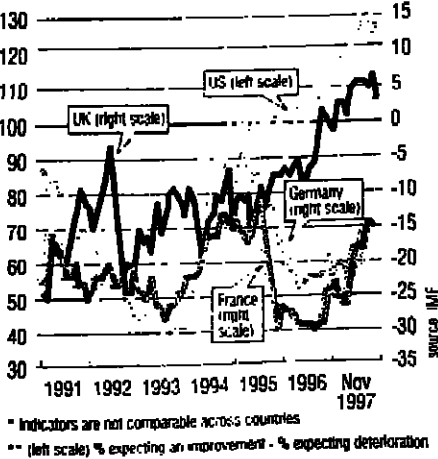
Contrasting responses between East and West

Diverging equity prices 1996-97



* GDP-weighted average

Diverging consumer confidence*



* Indicators are not comparable. Notes: countries (left scale) % expecting an improvement, % expecting deterioration

Asian crisis something similar to the OPEC oil shock of 1973/4, but in reverse. In the 1970s a world economy which was already under mounting inflationary pressure was struck by an external inflationary shock. Now a world economy which is mostly under mounting deflationary pressure has been hit by an external deflationary shock. Then, the countries which were best able to cope were those where inflationary pressure was relatively weak, in particular Japan and Germany. The UK was hard hit, partly because of high domestic inflation and partly because of the wrong policy response.

Now those best able to cope will be those where deflationary pressure is relatively weak, like the US and UK and those hardest hit will be those already suffering from deflation, like Japan and much of continental Europe.

The difference in sentiment between the US and UK on the one hand and Germany and France on the other is best caught by the graph on the right, which shows the differences in consumer confidence. There has been a modest recovery in confidence on the Continent, but it is still very low by comparison. Both France and Germany have had good autumns, but demand has been almost entirely sustained by exports. If the cold deflationary

wind from the east becomes more intense they will need to replace export demand with domestic consumption. Will that wind strengthen? It is hard to know how worried we should be. The financial fall-out is perhaps two-thirds of the way to being in the open. There is probably a China devaluation still to come (though this is not yet inevitable) which will put a new round on pressure on its regional competitors, and the Japanese market may well make one further downward shift in the first half of next year. But I think by the middle of the year the financial stage of the crisis will be under control and we will be concerned with the weakness of the real economies. Strong downward pressure on prices will continue, through lower prices of goods produced in the region, lower exports to the region, and probably lower commodity prices too.

My guess is that by the middle of next year the financial markets of East Asia will have recovered their cool, but the financial markets here will be making the long adjustment to a world of stable or slowly falling prices. Bond yields will be falling, but equity markets will still be learning to live with higher yields.

The other preoccupation will be EMU, for by the middle of the year EMU members will have moved to pretty much a single interest rate. On balance this is likely to be mildly deflationary. For some countries, those already experiencing a boom like the Netherlands and Ireland, the reverse will be true. But Europe as a whole seems likely to experience both higher interest rates and continued pressure to narrow budget deficits. The new IMF forecasts for continental Europe next year are quite bullish (2.6 per cent growth for Germany, 2.7 per cent for France as against only 2.4 per cent for the UK), but the risks for all, including ourselves, are surely on the downside.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



Robin Angus, the Edinburgh-based investment trust guru at NatWest Securities, has produced his annual spoof Christmas carol, comprising 20 verses of pithy comment on the year's happenings. All together now:

"Good King Wenceslas was cross
His horse had been demolished
He feared he'd face a hefty loss
Since PEPS had been abolished.
Every year he'd tucked away
The full amount permitted.
But planning for a rainy day
By Labour's been outwitted."

And so on. However, what really caught my eye was Mr Angus's introduction, in which he reveals a hidden streak of anarchism unlikely in a Scottish financier: "A dream of mine is to start an airline without seat-belts and security checks, which will allow me, if I want, to run car wheels up and down the aisle, festooned with metal objects and smoking my pipe." The self-proclaimed enemy of the Nanny State continues: "If I got hurt it would be my own silly fault and I would have no comeback against the airline. Neither would any of the other passengers, who would doubtless wander around juggling with knives and smoking spoons. But what blissful freedom!" Indeed, And with the dawn of Scottish independence, who says Mr Angus won't get his wish? Arise Caledonia, and pass the joint.

Talking of carols, and I'm sure you've heard enough of the things already this festive season, it appears that "The Twelve Days of Christmas" exerts some kind of hold over the accountancy profession's imagination - if such a thing exists. KPMG Management Consulting have come up with a version of "Twelve Days" featuring European Monetary Union (EMU), while Pricewaterhouse, bless em, have come up with a list of methods to keep the gifts in the carol VAT-free.

KPMG's dirty little secret: "On the first day of EMU, KPMG wanted me: there'll soon be a single currency." Keeping with the Euro spirit, I would like to say: "Nul points." Sorry, Michael Littlechild and Russell Fox, partners in KPMG Management Consulting. Over to Dugald Cairns, PwC's director of VAT Services. How do we keep "Seven swans a-swimming" free of VAT? Dugald: "You'd think that if ostriches can be zero-rated, so could swans, but it's going to be hard to do that, historically, the Monarch has the right to eat swans. So there's clearly a case for zero-rating as foodstuff - all you need is a general licence to prove that your true love is related to the Royal Family, convince the VAT Tribunal, and we're there." Indeed we are, Dugald. Now you know what accountants do instead of charades.

Are City spin doctors College Hill entering the fray to become a bulge bracket investment bank? They've just hired Kevin Feeney, a brewery analyst at UBS, following the appointment two months ago of Jenny Nibbs, a stores analyst from James Capel. Then there's Vernon Partridge, an insurance watcher they took from Williams & Broe a year ago. College Hill boss Alex Sandberg denies it all. "They're being hired for their City experience. They will act as consultants," he says. Other recent recruits include Ron Egozian, who was head of corporate communications at Yamachi before the Japanese bank went pear-shaped, and Tony Friend, the ex-managing director of rivals Ludgate. Mr Sandberg wants that the New Bug's first hazard will be coping with the annual dinner he traditionally cooks for the staff at College Hill's Gresham Street offices. "This year is Thai Green Chicken Curry," he says.

Tim Miller, who founded his own unit trust company Portfolio four years ago with his colleague Richard Timberlake, owns up to "commercialising the Queen's Speech." The good news is that it's for charity. Just as our Monarch finishes her address to the nation this Christmas, Classic FM will broadcast a concert from the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, sponsored by Portfolio. The concert was recorded a fortnight ago, and raised £13,000 for the National Appeal for Music Therapy. Over 600 guests attended the recital in the same hall in which Nelson lay in state for two days. Mr Miller is certainly going to enjoy a happy Yuletide. He's just sold the remaining 30 per cent of Portfolio which Fidelity didn't already own to the investment giant, for around £1m. Shared between four executive directors, that should make a nice stocking-filler. "But we didn't sell it for the money," says Mr Miller. He's happy to put up with the increasingly stringent capital adequacy requirements which regulators use to safeguard the industry. But the birth of the Financial Services Authority is another matter. "I'm deeply disappointed by what's happened. It will just be as bureaucratic [as the last system] and possibly worse - because it's bigger," he says.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	100.00		
Australia	2.5442	2.5448	2.5360
Austria	20.824	20.792	20.727
Belgium	61.054	61.043	61.047
Canada	2.2843	2.2763	2.2673
Denmark	11.772	11.742	11.717
ECU	1.4872	1.4830	1.4835
Finland	8.0570	8.0554	8.0551
France	6.502	6.5008	6.5008
Germany	2.2968	2.2951	2.2939
Greece	4.5612	4.5604	4.5594
Hong Kong	12.800	12.803	12.804
Italy	11.494	11.493	11.493
Japan	208.15	208.15	208.15
Malaysia	2.6556	2.6524	2.6525
Mexico	8.340	8.3363	8.3324
Netherlands	3.3342	3.3322	3.3307
New Zealand	2.2962	2.2958	2.2956
Norway	5.212	5.2108	5.2108
Portugal	302.53	302.51	302.50
Saudi Arabia	6.2333	6.2328	6.2322
Singapore	2.7835	2.7822	2.7815
South Africa	8.0996	8.0972	8.0958
Spain	20.131	20.1293	20.128
Sweden	1.282	1.2813	1.2803
Switzerland	2.2807	2.2778	2.2756
US	1.0620		

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.0820	100.00	Chile	0.0388	100.00
Brazil	1.1915	100.00	Colombia	0.0388	100.00
Czech Rep	5.7489	100.00	Costa Rica	0.0388	100.00
Denmark	1.1915	100.00	Cuba	0.0388	100.00
Hong Kong	3.6913	100.00	Ecuador	0.0388	100.00
India	33.831	100.00	El Salvador	0.0388	100.00
Indonesia	1.5823	100.00	Guatemala	0.0388	100.00
Kuwait	0.0601	100.00	Honduras	0.0388	100.00
Nigeria	1.9468	100.00	Malaysia	0.0388	100.00

Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
Base	2.50%	Prime	6.50%
Discount	2.00%	Fed Funds	5.50%
Overnight	3.00%	Discount	2.75%
3 month	4.00%	3 month	3.00%
6 month	4.50%	6 month	3.50%
1 year	5.00%	1 year	4.00%

Bond Yields

Country	3 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year
Australia	4.84	4.08	5.23	4.05	5.72	6.04
Belgium	3.81	4.03	4.08	4.06	4.76	5.38
Canada	5.38	4.36	5.21	4.00	5.44	5.86
Denmark	4.44	4.00	4.46	4.04	4.99	5.37
France	0.00	3.70	4.02	4.18	4.61	5.24
Germany	3.72	3.87	4.08	4.36	4.78	5.25
Italy	5.07	5.07	5.07	5.07	5.07	5.07
Japan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Netherlands	3.89	4.00	4.02	4.04	4.04	5.21
Spain	4.53	4.04	4.07	4.05	4.04	5.21
Sweden	4.53	4.04	4.07	4.05	4.04	5.21
Switzerland	4.53	4.04	4.07	4.05	4.04	5.21
UK	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
US	5.29	5.29	5.29	5.29	5.29	5.29

Money Market Rates

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Germany	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
US	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Japan	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Long Gilt	Mar-98	121.84	121.47	2426	19625
German Bund	Mar-98	103.16	103.16	3276	24076
US Long Bond	Mar-98	118.23	118.23	1462	17436
Index Bond	Mar-98	118.23	118.23	1462	17436
Japan Govt Bd	Mar-98	129.74	129.74	780	38004
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-98	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-98	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-99	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-99	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-99	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-99	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-00	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-00	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-00	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-00	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-01	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-01	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-01	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-01	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-02	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-02	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-02	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-02	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-03	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-03	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-03	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-03	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-04	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-04	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-04	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-04	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-05	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-05	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-05	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-05	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-06	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-06	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-06	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-06	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-07	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-07	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-07	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-07	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-08	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-08	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-08	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-08	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-09	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-09	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-09	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-09	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-10	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-10	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-10	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-10	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-11	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-11	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-11	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-11	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-12	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-12	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-12	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-12	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-13	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-13	92.43	92.43	1905	14084
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-13	92.43	92.43	1905	14084</

21/RACING

THE INDEPENDENT
TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER 1997
21

Brighton's future is 'secure'

Even the mist that so frequently rolls in from the sea fails to disguise the fact that Brighton, one of the country's oldest racecourses, is certainly among the most dilapidated. Fears that it could become the first British track to shut since Stockton in 1981 have been growing, writes Chris Corrigan.

Scarper Pinky, it's the law, runs a well-known line from the 1947 thriller *Brighton Rock*. In the film, Pinky and his vicious gang work the local track. At least in those days, though, Brighton racecourse had a swagger about it.

Its downland setting offered spectacular views across the Channel. At one time Brighton's mid-summer racing festival was a fashionable next stop after Glorious Goodwood. But last night Brighton and Hove Council were in the position of urgently seeking to play down anxiety that the course is in jeopardy.

Executive said: "I firmly believe that unless substantial monies are forthcoming for the buildings, and redevelopment of the track, serious problems will occur in the not too distant future. However, I also understand the lessees position with regard to retaining control of what they regard as a community facility. But it was not the intention of Arena Leisure to remove the community aspect, only to improve the facilities available to all the ratepayers of Brighton."

A Brighton council spokesman said last night: "The course is in no danger whatsoever. We have been seeking a company to manage the course and have had presentations from Arena Leisure and another unnamed company. We hope to announce our decision in the next few weeks. This partnership will enable the racing facilities to be improved with substantial financial investment. The idea is to have racing as the core activity on a course fit to compete in the first division of UK race venues."



An afternoon in August and the sea fret shrouds most of Brighton's downland circuit

Photograph: Sporting Life

Casey wishing for a wet Christmas for Rough Quest

Rain needs to arrive in quantity to ensure the participation of Rough Quest and See More Business in the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day.

Terry Casey, who trains Rough Quest, said yesterday that last year's Grand National winner had worked "superbly" in the morning as he completed his build-up for the Kempton race.

"Rough Quest worked very well - he worked superbly," the

trainer said. "But it would have to be soft ground for him to run. I see in the paper today that they are calling it good to soft with good patches and that wouldn't be soft enough."

Paul Nicholls, trainer of See More Business, has booked Andrew Thornton for the ride in the King George, but would also like deeper ground.

The official advance going issued from Kempton yesterday was "Good to Soft". Final de-

clarations for the race will be made this morning.

Nicholls is more certain about running What A Hand in the Welsh National at Chepstow on Saturday and the nine-year-old's chance has been improved by the booking of Richard Dunwoody.

The former champion will be bidding to repeat his 1993 victory in the Chepstow race on Riverside Boy. Nicholls said: "It is a very competitive race with

a lot with good chances but What A Hand would have to be a leading fancy."

Stable jockey Timmy Murphy is currently sidelined by suspension, so Nicholls is still seeking a rider for Belmont King, the yard's other intended runner in the Welsh National.

Newton Abbot, where the ground is already heavy, is to be inspected at noon tomorrow to determine prospects for the track's Boxing Day card.

Dwyer not riding for a fall

Mark Dwyer, the dual Gold Cup-winning jockey, has announced his retirement from the saddle after spending a year on the sidelines.

"That is it, I have packed up," Dwyer said yesterday. "Basically, I am fit enough to ride but not fit enough to fall - that is the top and bottom of it."

who partnered more than 800 winners, suffered a compound fracture of his left elbow in a fall at Kelso last December and, despite two operations, his arm is still not right.

Dwyer, who has a thriving livery yard near Malton, North Yorkshire, added: "Training is not a consideration at the moment."

King George VI Chase (3m)				
Horse (Trainer)	Cost	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Total
One Man (G. Richards)	5-1	1-1	1-10	5-4
Sunny Bay (C. Brock)	5-2	1-4	5-2	11-4
Barton Bank (D. Nicholls)	5-1	9-2	4-1	5-1
Rough Quest (T. Casey)	5-1	9-1	5-1	5-1
See More Business (P. Nicholls)	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Challenger Du Lac (M. Potts)	16-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Deedeen (P. Dorey)	16-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Yorkshire Girl (J. Gifford)	16-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Go West (J. Gifford)	16-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Algon (P. Dorey)	25-1	30-1	25-1	30-1

Welsh National Handicap Chase (3m 5f 110yds)

Horse (Trainer)	Cost	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Total
Cyborg (M. Potts)	5-1	5-1	5-2	5-2
Indian Tracker (M. Potts)	7-1	7-1	6-1	7-1
Belle Life (P. Hobbs)	8-1	7-1	7-1	8-1
Stamper (P. Hobbs)	8-1	10-1	8-1	10-1
Bingo (D. Nicholls)	8-1	10-1	8-1	10-1
General Wolfe (T. Foster)	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Belmont King (P. Nicholls)	10-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
What A Hand (P. Nicholls)	10-1	12-1	11-1	12-1
Don Samuel (M. Potts)	12-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Carlton Gold (K. Bailey)	16-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Glennville (A. Turner)	16-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Alf Shot (D. Nicholls)	25-1	20-1	25-1	20-1
South Summit (M. Potts)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Kilshin (M. Potts)	25-1	20-1	25-1	20-1
Greenish Tare Away (P. Hobbs)	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Swinggate (M. Potts)	20-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Call It A Day (D. Nicholls)	20-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Dalyan Boy (D. Nicholls)	33-1	33-1	40-1	40-1
Foodbroker Star (J. Gifford)	40-1	33-1	40-1	33-1
Flow (P. Dorey)	40-1	33-1	50-1	50-1
Stop The Weather (M. Potts)	40-1	65-1	65-1	65-1

RACING RESULTS

LUDLOW		LINGFIELD	
12.40: 1. STAGE PASS (P. Nicholls) 12-1; 2. Haze 7-2; 3. Mides 6-4; 4. 10 ran. 4. (G. Barnett, Scales-on-Turn) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.		12.30: 1. FRIENDLY BRAVE (P. Nicholls) 12-1; 2. Goodbye Gethem 7-1; 3. Rose-Johnson 12-1; 4. 8 ran. 4. (G. Barnett, Scales-on-Turn) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.	
1.10: 1. VISCOUNT TULLY (P. Nicholls) 12-1; 2. Ve Uu 8-1; 3. Arfina 12-1; 4. Benryon 10-1; 5. 17 ran. 5-1. (P. Nicholls) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.		1.10: 1. JUST DISSIDENT (M. Tabor) 11-1; 2. Imp Express 11-2; 3. Miler 12-1; 4. 8 ran. 5-1. (P. Nicholls) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.	
1.40: 1. GALE TOL (A. P. McCoy) 3-1; 2. Stompin 3-1; 3. Charming Girl 5-1; 4. 8 ran. 17-1. (A. P. McCoy) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.		1.40: 1. BLUE SHADOW (T. Williams) 11-1; 2. Best of Our Days 4-1; 3. Pearly Queen 5-1; 4. 8 ran. 5-1. (P. Nicholls) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.	
2.10: 1. OH DONNA (M. A. Fitzgerald) 2-1; 2. Hot 'n' Sexy 10-1; 3. Super Selt 20-1; 4. 16 ran. 3-1. (P. Nicholls) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.		2.10: 1. WITCHFINDER (P. Nicholls) 3-1; 2. Gentle Ashby 12-1; 3. Miler 12-1; 4. 8 ran. 5-1. (P. Nicholls) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.	
2.40: 1. FORTUNES COURSE (M. Potts) 12-1; 2. Miler 12-1; 3. Miler 12-1; 4. 8 ran. 5-1. (P. Nicholls) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.		2.40: 1. CLASSIC FIND (M. Potts) 12-1; 2. Miler 12-1; 3. Miler 12-1; 4. 8 ran. 5-1. (P. Nicholls) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.	
3.10: 1. MILE STRONG GALE (P. Nicholls) 7-4; 2. Trail Boss 10-1; 3. Jason's Boy 7-1; 4. 7 ran. 3-1. (P. Nicholls) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.		3.10: 1. NIGHT CITY (P. Nicholls) 5-1; 2. Miler 12-1; 3. Miler 12-1; 4. 8 ran. 5-1. (P. Nicholls) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.	
3.40: 1. ROAD RACER (J. A. McCarthy) 5-1; 2. Miler 12-1; 3. Miler 12-1; 4. 8 ran. 5-1. (P. Nicholls) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.		3.40: 1. NIGHT CITY (P. Nicholls) 5-1; 2. Miler 12-1; 3. Miler 12-1; 4. 8 ran. 5-1. (P. Nicholls) Total: £1070; £170 £245 £120 Dual Forecast: £170 Computer Straight Forecast: £275 Total: £1420.	

Today we publish the updated results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The player scores are for all League games played until Sunday December 22nd. The league table includes all scores up to December 14th. At the half way stage, Miss Lisa Wild with her team Amerretto AFC is leading the Independent League Table. The leader at the end of the season wins a trip to the World Cup in France next Summer.

Every one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated Player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the following Sunday in the Independent on Sunday.

HOW TO SCORE

player scores	1
clean sheet	2
winning goal	3
successful assist	3
yellow card	-1
red card	-3
manager's team wins	3
draw	1

LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 14 DECEMBER

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Miss Lisa Wild	Amerretto AFC	653
2	Mr Archer	The Untouchables	647
3	Mr B Sani	Billy Boys 2nd II	646
4	Mr D Aston	Washed Up Army	645
5	Mr J McCrossan	Seeking Victory	642
6	Mr C King	Pins 4 Ups	642
7	Mr D Evans	B. Boys Ends Olds Boys	642
8	Mr J Cox	Southville FC	640
9	Mr I Boyle	Wendley Bundlers	640
10	Mr A Wingrove	Tony's Brace	640
11	Mr T Lyons	Diana's Demons	639
12	Mr B Sari	Simply The Best	639
13	Mr D Baker	Deja Vu	638
14	Mr M Pawley	Robert's Rovers	630
15	Mr S Scott	Unbeatable	629
16	Mr C Thomas	Scudrope (SIC) Extras	628
17	Mr S Scott	The Dream Team	624
18	Mr G Bell	Stunning Stunts	624
19	Mr F Henderson	Secondary Celtic	622
20	Mr I Brown	Ruffus	621
21	Mr D Baker	Linthorpe Rovers	621
22	Mr G Ford	Dead Beat	621
23	Mr D Boyle	Clogston Rovers	621
24	Mr D Edmington	Edmo United	621
25	Mr Brady	Look Lively	621
26	Mr J McCrossan	Washed Up Army	619
27	Mr M Rickard	Aller Lumberg	618
28	Mr T Brazier	Wow For Short	618
29	Mr C Milne	Grimsby's Fish	618
30	Mr J Sani	One Watt City	616
31	Mr J Choudi	Niles 9th II	615
32	Mr P Green	Powis Rangers	615
33	Mr J Cox	Retro Rovers	615
34	Mr S Mann	Rebecca's Rovers	614
35	Mr D McCarter	McCarter II	614
36	Mr D Aston	Billy Boys 3rd II	614
37	Mr D Baker	SPF Rules	614
38	Mr T Russ	Sammy's Scorchers	612
39	Mr D Arkroyd	Jack's Lads	612
40	Mr M Ewins	Mikes C Team	610
41	Mr M Fraser	Somnus Wanderers	608
42	Mr D Sullivan	The Right Stuff	608
43	Mr M Ewins	Scarred But Will I Finish	608
44	Mr M Ewins	Mikes A Team	607
45	Mr A Mitchell	The Eye For It	607

GOALKEEPERS

POS	NAME	TEAM	PTS
1	300 Seanan	ARS	45
2	301 Luke	ARS	40
3	302 Manning	ARS	35
4	303 Benoit	ARS	32
5	304 Oakes	ARS	27
6	305 Ratten	ARS	18
7	306 Lense	ARS	12
8	307 Flowers	ARS	12
9	308 Ellis	ARS	12
10	309 Brannan	ARS	12
11	310 De Goeij	ARS	12
12	311 Greville	ARS	12
13	312 O'Leary	ARS	12
14	313 Smith	ARS	12
15	314 Smith	ARS	12
16	315 Smith	ARS	12
17	316 Smith	ARS	12
18	317 Smith	ARS	12
19	318 Smith	ARS	12
20	319 Smith	ARS	12
21	320 Smith	ARS	12
22	321 Smith	ARS	12
23	322 Smith	ARS	12
24	323 Smith	ARS	12
25	324 Smith	ARS	12
26	325 Smith	ARS	12
27	326 Smith	ARS	12
28	327 Smith	ARS	12
29	328 Smith	ARS	12
30	329 Smith	ARS	12
31	330 Smith	ARS	12
32	331 Smith	ARS	12
33	332 Smith	ARS	12
34	333 Smith	ARS	12
35	334 Smith	ARS	12
36	335 Smith	ARS	12
37	336 Smith	ARS	12
38	337 Smith	ARS	12
39	338 Smith	ARS	12
40	339 Smith	ARS	12
41	340 Smith	ARS	12
42	341 Smith	ARS	12
43	342 Smith	ARS	12
44	343 Smith	ARS	12
45	344 Smith	ARS	12
46	345 Smith	ARS	12
47	346 Smith	ARS	12
48	347 Smith	ARS	12
49	348 Smith	ARS	12
50	349 Smith	ARS	12
51	350 Smith	ARS	12
52	351 Smith	ARS	12
53	352 Smith	ARS	12
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57	356 Smith	ARS	12
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59	358 Smith	ARS	12
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61	360 Smith	ARS	12
62	361 Smith	ARS	12
63	362 Smith	ARS	12
64	363 Smith	ARS	12
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67	366 Smith	ARS	12
68	367 Smith	ARS	12
69	368 Smith	ARS	12
70	369 Smith	ARS	12
71	370 Smith	ARS	12
72	371 Smith	ARS	12
73	372 Smith	ARS	12
74	373 Smith	ARS	12
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81	380 Smith	ARS	12
82	381 Smith	ARS	12
83	382 Smith	ARS	12
84	383 Smith	ARS	12
85	384 Smith	ARS	12
86	385 Smith	ARS	12
87	386 Smith	ARS	12
88	387 Smith	ARS	12
89	388 Smith	ARS	12
90	389 Smith	ARS	12
91	390 Smith	ARS	12
92	391 Smith	ARS	12
93	392 Smith	ARS	12
94	393 Smith	ARS	12
95	394 Smith	ARS	12
96	395 Smith	ARS	12
97	396 Smith	ARS	12
98	397 Smith	ARS	12
99	398 Smith	ARS	12
100	399 Smith	ARS	12

DEFENDERS

POS	NAME	TEAM	PTS
1	401 Dixon	ARS	32
2	402 Upson	ARS	30
3	403 Peir	ARS	27
4	404 Grimsby	ARS	27
5	405 Manning	ARS	27
6	406 Manning	ARS	27
7	407 Manning	ARS	27
8	408 Manning	ARS	27
9	409 Manning	ARS	27
10	410 Manning	ARS	27
11	411 Manning	ARS	27
12	412 Manning	ARS	27
13	413 Manning	ARS	27
14	414 Manning	ARS	27
15	415 Manning	ARS	27
16	416 Manning	ARS	27
17	417 Manning	ARS	27
18	418 Manning	ARS	27
19	419 Manning	ARS	27
20	420 Manning	ARS	27
21	421 Manning	ARS	27
22	422 Manning	ARS	27
23	423 Manning	ARS	27
24	424 Manning	ARS	27
25	425 Manning	ARS	27
26	426 Manning	ARS	27
27	427 Manning	ARS	27
28	428 Manning	ARS	27
29	429 Manning	ARS	27
30	430 Manning	ARS	27
31	431 Manning	ARS	27
32	432 Manning	ARS	27
33	433 Manning	ARS	27
34	434 Manning	ARS	27
35	435 Manning	ARS	27
36	436 Manning	ARS	27
37			

WHAT IF?

As another sporting year reaches its finale, Greg Wood looks back over the last 12 months and recalls what might have happened

WHAT IF

JOHN MCENROE HAD MELLOWED WITH AGE?

The umpire blanched visibly at the stream of abuse being hurled towards his chair. "Are you BLIND? The ball was IN! What kind of a jerk ARE you? You are sick, sick, SICK!"

At the other end of the court, a bemused John McEnroe looked on. This was not the Bjorn Borg he remembered. That unfortunate business with the underpants company had clearly taken its toll on the once unflappable Swede.

Still, at least the latest outbreak of Borg-rage – the third in the first set of their exhibition game alone – gave him a chance to see his opponent as others had once seen him. Anger, petulance, arrogance – all those negative emotions which used to grip McEnroe so frequently, back in the days when his life was dominated by worthless, material desires, like winning Wimbledon.

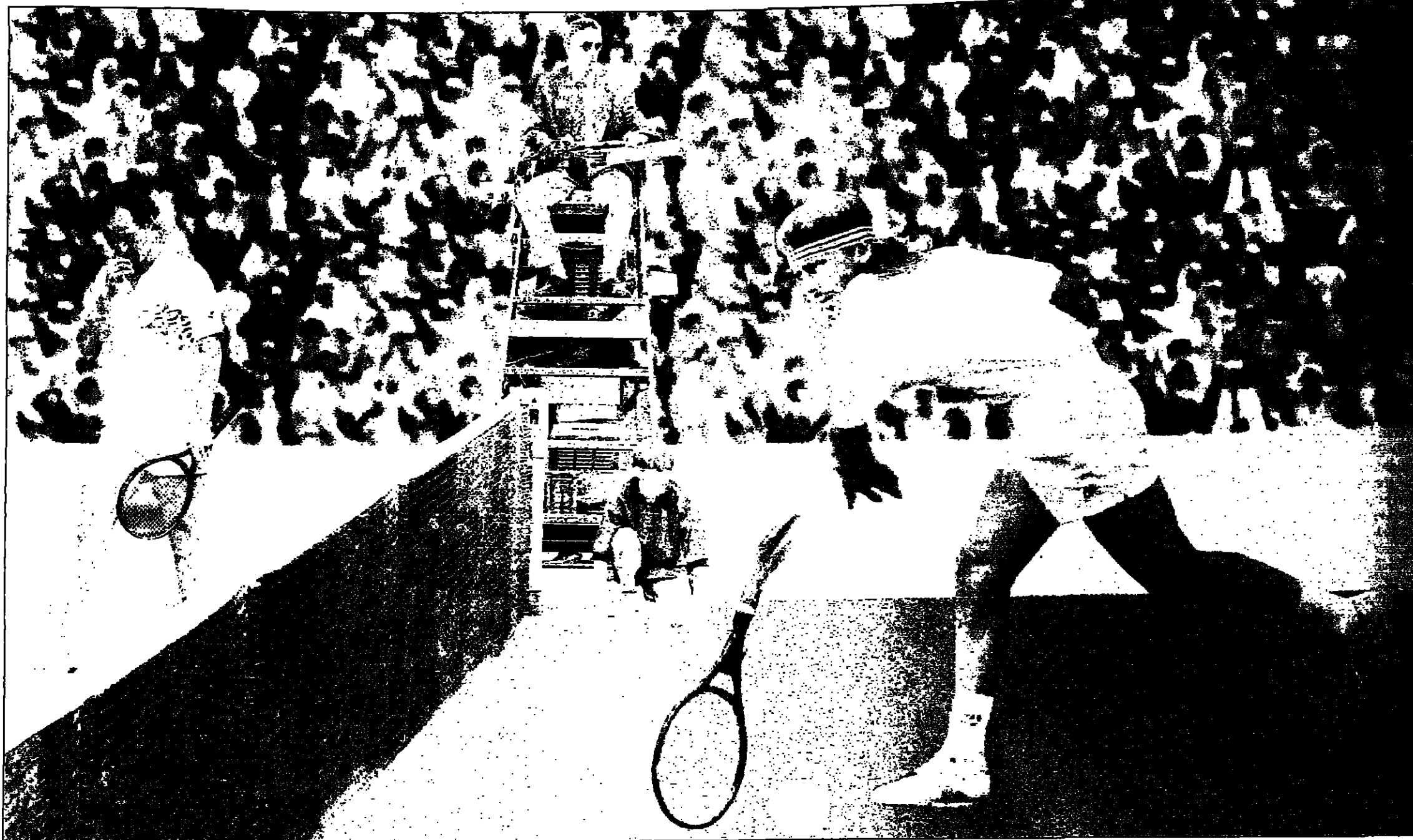
How silly it all seemed now. As Borg advanced on the chair, a disturbing gleam in his eye and flecks of foam starting to form around the corners of his mouth, it was just like one of the visualisation exercises at the retreat.

To think that he had almost turned his best friend down when he suggested that a week or two with the hippest swami in New York might help him to chill a little. Yeah, right, he'd thought. Love and peace. Sounds like the pits of the earth.

And so it was for the first 10 days. The Purple Flower People plied him with compassion, understanding and extraordinary quantities of incense, but still the demon within him resisted. And then, quite unexpectedly – enlightenment. The bitterness and rage which had tormented him for so long fell away like a second skin, and the new John McEnroe was born: gentle, calm and generous to a fault. Not to mention a double fault.

It meant, of course, that he was utterly hopeless at tennis. The purple robes and the reluctance to send a pass down the line when his opponent had gone to such trouble to run to the net were bad enough, but the two minutes of silent contemplation whenever he changed ends meant that he was forfeiting every other game. From SuperBrat to SuperPrat, the headlines had read. But what matter, so long as his karma was in tune with the universe?

How Borg could do with a little of the same inner peace now. Sadly for the umpire, the Swede had recently discovered that one of the new graphite rackets could do far more damage to an errant line-judge than one of his old-fashioned wooden implements. By the time the security men finally dragged him, swearing and screaming, towards a wait-



Swedish psycho Bjorn Borg vents his anger on another racket while John McEnroe struggles to remember his mantra in their recent re-match which ended with Borg's disqualification

Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

ing police car, the poor official was barely conscious. Just enough breath remained before oblivion claimed him, though, to grasp the microphone and croak: code violation. Mr Borg. Game, set and match to Mr McEnroe.

It's just like I'm always saying, McEnroe thought, as he plucked a flower from a fan and threaded it carefully into his hair. Nice guys can be winners too.

WHAT IF

IAN WRIGHT HAD BEEN INJURED ON 13 SEPTEMBER?

It was only the tiniest of splinters which lodged itself in the middle toe of Ian Wright's left foot as he padded towards the bathroom on the morning of 13 September, but it was enough.

As he limped back to the bedroom to phone Arsène Wenger and rule himself out of the game that afternoon, the Arsenal striker cursed his misfortune. He was still one goal short of Cliff Bastin's all-time club record, and though the lethal finishing which had long been his trademark had deserted him in recent weeks, he had really fancied himself to get a couple, perhaps even three, against Bolton later that day.

As he turned into the bedroom he winced, and not just because of the throbbing pain in his foot. There, neatly folded on a chair, was the T-shirt so thoughtfully provided by Nike, his sponsors, to celebrate the impending moment of triumph. "179 – Just Done It," the slogan read. As he dialled Wenger's number, Wright promised himself that while Bolton might have been spared, someone else would suffer.

But as autumn gave way to winter, it was Wright who did the suffering. Games against Chelsea, West Ham and Everton passed with the record still elusive as ever, and soon his famous self-confidence was visibly crumbling. Even Barnsley's porous back four kept him at bay, and on the rare occasions when he did get a sight of goal, Wright's feeble attempts to finish were making him a laughing stock. And when the visiting fans started chanting "You're even worse than Collymore" during the goalless draw with Villa at the end of October, the man with the power to make or break him knew that something had to give.

The phone rang as he was leaving for Highbury and the vital game against Manchester United. "I'm sorry, Ian," the marketing manager from Nike said. "But sales are going through the floor. Kids are writing to Santa saying they want any boots he's got so long as they're not Nike. It's nothing personal, but as of this moment, you're fired."

And as even a Sunday afternoon park player knows, if you don't have a pair of boots, you don't get a game. In desperation, Wright hawked himself around every sportswear manufacturer he could think of, but everywhere the answer was the same. His fitness waned, and when Wenger allowed him to join Doncaster Rovers – who play as if they're not wearing boots anyway – on a month's loan, his record-breaking dream seemed to have evaporated.

But no sooner had Wright begun to acquaint himself with his new northern team-mates, than Fate again stepped into his life. A series of bizarre training-ground accidents robbed Wenger of striker after striker, and as the Frenchman sat down to write out the team sheet for the match at Wimbledon on 22 December, his head slumped to the desk in despair as he found himself pencilling in Adams and Winterburn up front.

Suddenly, the telephone rang. "Boss, it's me, Ian. I'm fit. I'm ready for action and guess what – I've got some boots." It was the answer to Wenger's prayers.

Who will ever forget the brilliant four-goal performance by Wright at Selhurst Park which took him to the record, and then beyond? Or the strikers' tearful press conference afterwards? "I'd like to thank Arsène Wenger for believing in me," Wright stammered. "But most of all, I'd like to thank Freeman, Hardy and Willis."

WHAT IF

COLIN MONTGOMERIE HAD ACTUALLY LISTENED TO SEVE?

"Six-iron". Colin Montgomerie snapped to his caddy without a second thought. A hundred and eighty yards to the flag, a gentle breeze at his back, and both the Americans plugged in fairway bunkers while his ball had flown straight down the middle. All square with one to play, a Ryder Cup point there for the taking – it was no time to dither and let the pressure creep up on you.

The club was already in his hands when there was a commotion on his left. Suddenly, the spectators were diving for cover as a golf buggy, driven erratically and at high speed, scattered them in all directions. "Wait, wait," the driver yelled, in a thick, southern European accent, and Montgomerie's heart sank.

A second later, Severiano Ballesteros was examining the situation for himself. "Six-iron?" he said finally, as the Scotsman's patience reached breaking point. "You don't want to use that. You want to use a five. You want to play it with some fade, or maybe a little draw. You want to make sure you reach the green, but don't

go through it. And you don't want to go into the bunker on the left."

"Thank you, captain," Monty hissed, as the match referee prepared to fine him for slow play. "But I think a six will be sufficient."

Ballesteros's eyes flashed bright with Latin passion. "Who built this course, hombre?" he spat. "Me, that's who, and I'm telling you, I'm ordering you to use a five. If you don't, I swear your name will be in the envelope before the singles. I'm sure" – he smiled wickedly – "Tom and I can come to an arrangement." The ruddy Montgomerie complexion turned positively claret. "All right," he yelled. "A five-iron it is."

His hands were twitching with rage as he finally addressed his ball, but the contact was a sweet one. Up and up the ball soared, dead on line for the flag. And on and on it flew – straight into the grandstand behind the green.

For a moment, the spectators fell silent, all eyes on Ballesteros. "Well don't blame me," the Spaniard said at last. "It's not my fault if you hit it too hard. No wonder you've never won a major. Do you know how many majors I've won. Monty? Do you? Why don't I count them for you. Uno, dos, tres..."

And so it was that four days later, in Madrid cathedral, the victorious American team joined the Europeans in mourning for Spain's most famous sporting son. Meanwhile, in a secure unit somewhere near Valderrama...

WHAT IF

INZAGHI'S HEADER HAD GONE IN?

For all the valiant effort that had gone before, the chance which presented itself to Filippo Inzaghi with two minutes of injury time already played in Rome was a very straightforward one, and the striker placed his header into the top corner without a second thought. Throughout both Italy and Scotland, joy was unconfined.

For Glenn Hoddle, though, there was only a play-off and, worse, the Monday papers to look forward to. "String Him Up!" screamed the *Sun*. "Agreed. But Shoot Him First" added *The Times*. And the draw was not kind – Russia, with the first leg away from home.

To this day, no one is precisely sure what happened during that first half in Moscow. At the insistence of Umbro, England took to the field in their new all-white strip, just as a blizzard appeared from the Urals. Unable to see each other, let alone the ball, Hoddle's men could only accept the evidence of the scoreboard as they trooped off 45 minutes later. It told them that they were 3-0 down.

More suitably attired in red for the second half, and with the snow at their backs, England were saved from any further embarrassment, but the damage

had been done. "Don't Come Home, Glenn, Or We'll Beat You Up", was the friendly advice from the *Financial Times*.

It was clear that the second leg at Wembley was going to be a tough assignment when the Russians chose to line up in an unusual 10-0-0 formation. Despite flinging everything they had at the massed defence, England had nothing to show for their efforts with just 15 minutes left on the clock, and the few thousand supporters who had not already left were queuing for the exit. And then, a free-kick 25 yards from goal, and suddenly a buzz of excitement swept Wembley. "Glenn-da's stripping off!"

Scientists may insist that it is against all the laws of physics, but those who were behind the goal still swear that Hoddle's kick moved left, right, up, down, left and finally right again to beat the goalie's despairing dive. They gasped again two minutes later as Hoddle rose majestically between four hulking defenders to head home Beckham's corner, while his equaliser, deep into extra time, was more extraordinary still.

That he beat every player on the pitch before slotting home was one thing, but that he won the ball himself with a crunching tackle moments earlier was quite incredible.

After that, the winner was a mere formality, and the ticket to France was at last secure. "You Were Lucky," said the *Sun* next morning. "We'll Get You Next Time," warned the *Mirror*. After all, some things never change.

Television is insidious: the director and the lens create their own heroes

When last I commented on the Heineken European Cup, I received numerous not exactly abusive letters – for rugby followers are the most civil of correspondents, more so by far than political enthusiasts – but certainly unfriendly communications, chiefly from my fellow countrymen. Their complaints were as follows:

First, I had given my opinion that Pontypridd were lucky to get away as lightly as they did for the behaviour not so much of their players in France as of their fans. Second, I had got the score of the Bourgoin-Cardiff match wrong, saying that Cardiff had won an undeserved victory east of Lyon. And, third, I had written that the progress of the competition thus far reflected badly on the general standard of the top clubs in England and

Wales and the provincial sides in Scotland and Ireland. Let me take the complaints in order.

On the first one I do not say a word. I realise that the case has yet to be adjudicated on in France and a final decision reached. From my knowledge of the French judicial system, this may take a long time. But on the admitted facts, some of the Pontypridd supporters behaved appallingly. It is all very well for followers to back "our boys". But there is no reason for journalists to be expected to do the same.

On the second complaint I plead guilty. Instead of Cardiff winning undeservedly by one point, which is what I wrote, they'd lost deservedly by one point. I hope that makes my Welsh correspondents happier. I am sorry about the mis-

take, for I try to get things right, but we are none of us infallible. To conclude that, because a writer makes one mistake, therefore everything else he or she writes is questionable, makes everyone who has put pen to paper or finger to keyboard equally suspect, which is absurd.

What I wrote to bring about the third complaint – that the Cup had shown up rugby here – has been abundantly justified by the course of events. In the semi-finals of the two competitions, the European Cup and the European Conference, the British Isles had two representatives, respectively Bath and Newcastle. The other six clubs were all French. Bath survive to go on to play Brive in the final at Bordeaux.

It is no disrespect to them or to Brive that both semi-finals could easily have gone the other way.

ALAN WATKINS



ON RUGBY

in which case the finalists would have been Pau and Toulouse. Brive won because they scored an extra try, two to Toulouse's one, though their first try was clearly questionable, as Stuart Barnes (who is turning into a most acute commentator

or, if he prefers it, a summariser) demonstrated conclusively on Sky television.

They won also because Christophe Lamaison kicked some crucial penalties in extra time and was not reduced to a wreck by his failure to kick a conversion which would have won the match after 80 minutes. "Oh, the poor lad," the commentator Eddie Waring said spontaneously when Don Fox missed a conversion in similar circumstances in the League Cup final at Wembley many years ago.

Oddly enough, and for whatever reason, I could not summon up quite the same sympathy for Lamaison. It may be because his team were being given another chance, which they narrowly lost, whereas Fox's team simply lost.

Bath won because of the ulti-

mate reliability of Jonathan Callard's boot. It should do the club a lot of good. Tony Swift, their chief executive, was quoted on 18 December as saying that Bath were operating at a large financial loss and would decline further unless their Rec ground was redeveloped. A European Cup final will not by itself rebuild the ground. But it will certainly help.

The club or, rather, the first team, have certainly had an up-and-down time lately, chiefly down. Perhaps it is the curse of television. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, allowed the cameras in, and look what has happened to it since. Bath rugby club did the same and, though their plight is not nearly so desperate, they do not bemoan the rugby universe as once they did.

Television is an insidious medium because both the director and the lens itself, operating as an independent optical force, create their own heroes and, not villains exactly, but anti-heroes.

Thus Jon Sleightholme should not appear live on camera unless he is keeping his mouth shut and doing what he is good at (even if Bath do not appear to realise it), which is playing rugby. John Hall wore an expression of perpetual puzzlement throughout, as well he might in the circumstances. Graham Dawe, by contrast, was a star, someone the camera evidently loved.

Swift was not quite in Dawe's category. But he seemed sensible and incisive, both qualities in short supply at the Rec these days. I wish him well.

FOOTBALL

Arsenal fine Bergkamp for indiscipline

Arsenal have fined their forward Dennis Bergkamp, following his poor disciplinary record for dissent.

The Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, refused to say how much the Dutch international has had to pay, but insisted that an improving team spirit, and a much-improved disciplinary record, mean his side can still challenge Manchester United for the Premiership title.

"We have improved since the beginning of the season," he said. "I think as well, for example against Blackburn recently, they had as many yellow cards as we had, so I don't know why we are the ones who have to give explanations all the time."

The French international Michael Madaff will arrive in Liverpool today to continue talks with Everton, who have been given permission by his Spanish club, Deportivo La Coruña, to negotiate with the 29-year-old former Monaco striker.

Dave Hill, the chairman of Soccer Australia, the country's football governing body, admitted yesterday that he may struggle to keep Terry Venables as national coach in the face of competition from the likes of South Africa. The former England coach was put on an eight-strong shortlist to replace Clive Barker, who resigned on Saturday, despite the South Africans having qualified for the World Cup finals.

Venables failed to guide Australia through to France 98 but is still viewed as a desirable property in international management. Hill acknowledged that reputation, saying: "The problem is - and always has been - we cannot afford to pay Venables what he is demonstrably

worth. A lot of countries have made it quite clear - those who have qualified for the World Cup finals - that they want him. His record is terrific."

Not that good, perhaps. His Australia side lost 6-0 to Brazil in the final of the Confederations Cup in Riyadh on Sunday. Ronaldo and Romario both scored hat-tricks.

Barnsley are thought to be ready to stand by Dean Jones after he was banned for three months by the Football Association yesterday after testing positive for amphetamines at Barnsley's training ground in October. The 20-year-old defender pleaded guilty to the offence at a hearing in London, claiming he took the substance at a night-club on 26 October to keep him awake, not to enhance his performance.

Tom Pendry MP was yesterday appointed chairman designate of the Football Trust and will take up the post next year, when the present chairman, Lord Aberdeen, retires after 19 years. Pendry was the founding chairman of the influential All-Party Football Group in 1982 and served in this role for 10 years prior to becoming shadow Minister for Sport and Tourism, a position he held until the General Election.

The Professional Footballers' Association is to monitor the increasing number of complaints from managers that players are diving and feigning injury in Premiership matches. Neither the PFA nor the League Managers' Association believe that the problem is widespread within the British game - but say that it is something which must be kept in check.

- Tommy Stanforth



Marcelo Salas, the Chilean international striker, celebrates after his goal for River Plate earned a 1-1 draw at Argentinos Juniors on Sunday - and the Buenos Aires club's third successive Argentinian title. Photograph: AP

SAILING

Cayard snatches dramatic triumph

In one of the closest finishes ever seen in a long-distance ocean race, Paul Cayard snatched a second win for Sweden's EF Language in the third leg of the Whitbread Race yesterday.

The Californian overtook the second-leg winner, Gunnar Krantz's Swedish Match, just 50 miles from the finish of the 2,250 mile course from Fremantle to Sydney and then held on to win by just over five minutes.

Behind them, in rapid procession, the rest of the fleet came home in the early hours of a warm Sydney night. The first five boats all crossed the line within 10 minutes.

Added to his win on the first leg from Southampton to Cape Town, the second victory and the convoluted points system puts Cayard in the overall lead.

The former overall leader, Knut Frostad, was pipped for fourth place by Grant Dalton in Merit Cup and moves down to second. With Dalton also now fourth overall, Krantz moves up to third.

The all-round strength of Cayard's campaign is now acknowledged by all his rivals. A pecking order is beginning to emerge - and he is at the head of it. He learned his Southern Ocean lesson in a difficult baptism and his predictions of the growing importance of short course skills in ocean racing

have been proved true. He is also setting a pace which has a few heads being scratched. Dalton was entirely frank, saying that the opening few days upwind were not what his boat was designed to enjoy. At least he is hanging on to the lead group.

Looking more glum was Britain's Lawrie Smith, who finished seventh and slipped to sixth overall. His crewman, Neil Graham, said: "You need a few breaks. There were a lot of position changes and we were on a snake rather than a ladder at the end."

Smith explained that, having been in third place, they had suffered some bad luck, ripping a much-needed spinnaker at a vital time, and had made a tactical error by working the shoreline for the last 100 miles when it would have paid better to go offshore.

Much happier was the American George Collins, joining his Chessie Racing, joining his Chessie Racing for the first time in the race and seeing an improvement to third on the leg and up to fifth overall. The race restarts on 4 January, with the 1998 Whitbread World Race Third Leg 2,250 nautical miles, Fremantle to Sydney, starting positions: 1 EF Language (P Cayard), 2 Grant Dalton (G Dalton), 3 Sweden Match (G Krantz), 4 Gunnar Krantz (G Krantz), 5 Innovation (P Krantz), 6 Grant Dalton (G Dalton), 7 Neil Graham (N Graham), 8 Lawrie Smith (L Smith), 9 Grant Dalton (G Dalton), 10 Grant Dalton (G Dalton), 11 Grant Dalton (G Dalton), 12 Grant Dalton (G Dalton).

- Stuart Alexander in Sydney

SWIMMING

Coaches unite over drugs

The guardians of world swimming are to be challenged by the world's top coaches just two days before the start of the World Championships in Perth, Australia, next month.

A body called the World Swimming Organisation is to be formed to rival the present world governing body, Fina. This is in direct response to extraordinary times by Chinese women swimmers at the China National Games in October, and a belief by the swimming world that Fina is turning a blind eye to the sport's growing drug problem.

According to John Leonard, the executive director of the World Swimming Coaches Association and the man leading the formation of the WSO, officials and administrators lack respect for the sport. "They have allowed our sport to degenerate into a

drug-filled morass that sometimes seems impossible to extricate ourselves from. They have in some cases allowed their self-interest in joining the IOC [International Olympic Committee] or the Fina bureau to compromise their ability to stand up strongly for the sport."

The WSO will implement a plan aimed at providing drug-free competition. It includes athletes and coaches at the highest levels and will try to provide appropriate financial rewards. The WSO plan has 3,000 signatures including over 900 Olympians and their coaches.

Irish triple Olympic champion Michelle De Bruin is out of the World Championships. De Bruin has not recovered from whiplash injuries received in a car crash at the end of October.

- James Parrack

CRICKET

Gooch to guide Durham

Graham Gooch, the Test selector and former England and Essex captain, has joined Durham as a consultant and batting coach for next season. Gooch will join the county for pre-season training in early April.

"Helping Durham to devel-

op its team and local talent to be more successful fits in with the aim of improving the England team," Gooch said. "The success achieved at Essex was based on good youth development policies and I am sure that is the way forward for Durham."

EQUESTRIANISM

Charles savours the green road to success

Peter Charles rode the versatile nine-year-old French-bred mare, Dolly, to just about the fastest round that she has ever jumped when winning yesterday's Christmas Hammer on the closing day of the Olympia Show Jumping Championships.

Charles, who has ridden Dolly for the last four years, was dropping the mare down a level when he won this speed competition for Ireland. "It was her last class of the year and everyone was trying their hardest. Dolly enjoyed it," Charles said, after defeating Di Lampard on Flaminka 004 and Rodrigo Pessoa on Loro Piana Wanda.

Since opting to abandon the Union Flag and don a green coat for Ireland in 1992, Charles has built up the best string of

horses he has ever ridden. He still lives in England, but has no regrets about deciding to represent the Irish side of his family. It has opened doors that seemed to be securely locked while he was trying to get on a British Championship team.

Both Charles and Rodrigo Pessoa, the 25-year-old Brazilian who finished third yesterday, suggest that the future for British show jumping is decidedly bleak. "If you don't start making clones of John and Michael Whitaker, Britain will be dropping further and further back," Pessoa said.

The Brazilian's assessment was based on the British Horse Society's Instructors' Conference which he chaired at Stoneleigh last week, having stood in for his father, Nelson

Pessoa, who was unwell. Pessoa Jr was not impressed by the instructors, or by the young riders and their horses.

There was, however, one notable exception. He was impressed by Jackson Reed-Stephenson and his horse, No Complaints, with whom he won last Friday's Young Show Jumper Award. Rob Hockstra, the joint winner of yesterday's Christmas Eve Six Bar, was even more delighted by Reed-Stephenson's victory, for he is the rider's trainer.

"I feel as though I have had two victories," Hockstra said yesterday, after five clear rounds on the former American racehorse, Lionel. Left him equal first with Switzerland's Willi Melliger on Dominica III.

- Genevieve Murphy

ICE HOCKEY

Showpiece at Hull Arena

Hull Arena will stage the inaugural play-off championships of the British National League over the weekend of 21 and 22 March.

The move is a joint venture between the League and Hull City Council Sports Development Unit, with £17,000 in prize-money on offer, which includes £5,000 to the winners. The weekend will also incorporate, for the first time, a special ceremony when the League's awards for the season will be presented.

The League chairman, John Brady, said: "It shows just how far the League has developed in such a short time and the weekend should prove an ideal launchpad for next season."

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Vikings and Lions celebrate

The Minnesota Vikings survived a tough battle against the revitalised Indianapolis Colts on Sunday and Detroit beat the New York Jets to decide the four remaining places in the NFL play-offs.

Minnesota, Detroit, Miami and New England each made post-season reservations with an eye on the Super Bowl next month - but the Jets and Washington were each eliminated.

The Vikings, who endured an agonising last five weeks - all defeats after a brilliant start to the season - were without their injured first-choice quarterback Brad Johnson, but his understudy Randall Cunningham responded with four touchdown passes in a 39-28 victory.

At the Silverdome, a bad injury to the Detroit linebacker,

Reggie Brown, cut short the celebrations as the Lions ended the Jets' season with a 13-10 win. Brown was knocked unconscious with the score at 13-10 and was taken to hospital. When play resumed after 20 minutes, Detroit held on to the lead.

The Lions' win also knocked Washington out of play-off contention. The Redskins had beaten Philadelphia 35-32 earlier in the day, but they needed a loss by either the Lions or the Vikings to go through. Miami and New England, who were playing last night in Florida for the AFC East title, both advanced to the play-offs following the Jets' defeat.

Lindy Infante was fired as the coach of the Indianapolis Colts yesterday.

- Jeff Taylor

SPORTING DIGEST

American football

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
EASTERN DIVISION

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Miami	9	6	307	213
New England	9	6	305	287
NY Jets	8	7	348	287
Buffalo	6	10	255	357
Indianapolis	3	13	213	401

CENTRAL DIVISION
Pittsburgh

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Jacksonville	11	5	372	307
Tennessee	11	5	354	318
Cincinnati	9	7	353	310
Cleveland	7	9	355	405
Baltimore	9	7	328	345

WESTERN DIVISION
Kansas City

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Denver	12	4	472	287
Seattle	8	8	355	359
Oakland	12	0	336	49
San Diego	4	12	286	425

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
EASTERN DIVISION

Team	W	L	PF	PA
NY Giants	10	5	317	285
Washington	8	7	327	285
Philadelphia	9	7	317	372
Dallas	6	10	304	314
Arizona	4	12	283	379

CENTRAL DIVISION
Green Bay

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Chicago	10	6	422	282
San Francisco	10	6	299	283
Minnesota	9	7	379	308
Carolina	4	12	283	421

FOOTBALL
7-30 unless stated

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP Group Four: Blackpool v Chesterfield (7.30) (at Hyde Utd); Group Six: Rotherham v Walsley (7.30)

ON MARTINIS LEAGUE CUP Second round: Cleveland v Forest Green Rovers

RYAN LEAGUE Third Division: Exeter v Exeter City (7.30); Exeter City v Exeter City (7.30); Exeter City v Exeter City (7.30)

CRICKET
SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa XI v England XI (10.30)

ICE HOCKEY
SUPER LEAGUE: Bristol Bears v Manchester Storm; Newcastle Cobras v Nottingham Panthers

EXPRESS CUP: Basingstoke Town v Cardiff Devils

WESTERN DIVISION
New England

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Atlanta	7	9	300	381
Carolina	7	9	285	314
Washington	8	0	237	327
St Louis	5	11	299	359

through to play-off; 1 won Division title.

ATHLETICS
The former Olympic long-jumper Brad McStravick has been appointed as a development officer with the National Coaching Foundation, based in Leeds.

McStravick, 41, was formerly a national coach with the British Athletic Federation.

BASKETBALL
The Sports Council has presented a grant of nearly £4m to the English Basketball Association from its Lottery Fund.

The grant will finance the purchase of 4,000 vandal-resistant hoops for the GBAs outdoor basketball initiative.

USA: Cleveland 105 Utah 101; Boston 98 LA Clippers 77; Vancouver 88 Portland 85.

Boxing
Bruce Woodcock, the former British Empire and European heavyweight champion, has died in an old people's home in Doncaster aged 78.

CRICKET
Surrey have appointed their former skipper Keith Medcalf as assistant coach.

David Gilbert, who left the club in October and joined Sussex. The 31-year-old, who was in charge of the second team last season, has signed a three-year contract.

Warwickshire wicketkeeper who played in seven Test matches, has died in Torbay Hospital, aged 77. A left-handed opening batsman, he scored 1,767 runs and claimed 73 wickets when Warwickshire won the County Championship in 1951.

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL (Glasgow, Ind): Sri Lanka 172 for 9 (45 overs); Sri Lanka 172 for 9 (45 overs); Sri Lanka 172 for 9 (45 overs)

TOUR MATCH (Brisbane, final day of four): South Africa 453 for 9 (45 overs) and 220 for 7 (45 overs); Australia 359 for 9 (45 overs) and 222 for 1 (45 overs)

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his assistant and the pair will be in charge of the Boxing Day game with Northampton.

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS. Italian League: Lazio 2-0 Fiorentina; Lazio 2-0 Fiorentina; Lazio 2-0 Fiorentina

GOLF
The European Women's Tour, who have lost most sponsors American Express, have suffered another setback with the withdrawal of the prestigious Hennessy Cup tournament.

The Hennessy Cup tournament, which has run for 13 years, but the Hennessy Company have decided to review their marketing strategy and redirect funds to other events.

LEADING WORLD GOLF RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1 Tiger Woods (US); 2 Tiger Woods (US); 3 Tiger Woods (US); 4 Tiger Woods (US); 5 Tiger Woods (US)

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP (France, Ind): South Africa 101 (45 overs); India 91 for 5 (45 overs); India 91 for 5 (45 overs)

England's Under-19 side secured the first win of their year by beating the South African Schools Colts by 25 runs in Zwolle yesterday.

England's top scorer was an innings of 47, but he was better on the receiving end and of some extraordinary hitting by the all-rounder Dumais Makalima, who dispatched four sixes over midwicket in the 40th over.

TOUR MATCH (Zimbabwe, one day): England 101 (45 overs); South Africa 91 for 5 (45 overs); South Africa 91 for 5 (45 overs)

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Leeds Rhinos are allowing nine squad players to go on loan to the Second Division club Barnley. All nine - including David and Anthony Gibbons, who spent last season on loan with Huddersfield - will join the Rhinos Yorkshire neighbours in time for Sunday's centenary challenge match against Hunslet at Headingley.

Rugby Union
Christian Loader, Swansea's Welsh international prop is to have a neck operation this week and will not play again for club or country this season.

Loader capped 19 times, was injured against New Zealand last month. There is no long-term threat to the career of the 24-year-old, who also had to return home early with injury from last summer's tour of North America.

Both could receive a timely boost with the return from injury of Jeremy Guscott. The grid centre has set his sights

on making a mid-January comeback, which would put him in contention for Bath's Heineken Cup final appointment against the defending champions, Brive, in Bordeaux.

SKIING
A men's Alpine World Cup slalom at Madonna di Campiglio was called off yesterday because rising overnight temperatures ruined the piste. The postponement was the third in four days in the Italian Dolomites.

SNOW REPORT
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Klinsmann and Pleat brought back to rescue Tottenham

Tottenham Hotspur yesterday announced the return of Jürgen Klinsmann and David Pleat. Klinsmann, who left the club amid acrimony in 1995, has been signed to save the club from relegation. Pleat, who left in disgrace a decade ago, has a wider brief. Glenn Moore reports on another extraordinary day at White Hart Lane.

If Chigwell's millionaire's row has the same Yuletide traditions as suburbia, one can expect to see the Bentley in front of Alan Sugar's house being washed with a white shirt bearing the legend KLINSMANN 18 on Christmas morning.

One would not expect Sugar to be doing it himself but, if his chauffeur has the day off, there will be no shortage of Tottenham fans willing to escape the kids and help out now that their chairman has decided Klinsmann's shirt is fit not just to scrub the motor but also to lead Spurs out of a lather.

It is less than three years since Sugar derided the German after a glorious but truncated spell at White Hart Lane, but yesterday he welcomed back his club's most famous "Carlos Kickabout" with a mumbled dismissal of his former ire. Tellingly he also made very clear that Klinsmann has initially signed only until the summer, so there would be "no misunderstandings".

It was a "misunderstanding" about the length of Klinsmann's stay which caused the unsavoury breakdown in communications between the two after Klinsmann's summer 1995 departure to Bayern Munich. Sugar, who anticipated Klinsmann would stay another season, said a signed shirt Klinsmann had given him was not even fit for washing the car. Klinsmann, who had scored 29 goals in the season and been voted Footballer of the Year, said Sugar was "a man without honour".

Their harsh exchanges have long been replaced by mutual respect. This was evident when Klinsmann made a video contribution to a spoof *This is Your*



Jürgen Klinsmann, with Tottenham's chairman, Alan Sugar, and the club's coach, Christian Gross (foreground), yesterday

Photograph: Allsport

Life Sugar's family arranged for his 50th birthday last Autumn.

They have remained in regular touch. Thus, when Christian Gross, Spurs' new manager, told Sugar striking reinforcements were needed in the wake of complications with Chris Armstrong's ankle injury, he knew who to call. That Gross and Klinsmann have mutual friends, and the same lawyer, made things easier.

The irony is that one of the barbs Sugar wrongly aimed at Klinsmann when they were estranged – that he needed his year at Spurs to re-launch his career – is now true. Klinsmann has been injured and out-of-favour at Sampdoria, further jeopardising a World Cup place already threatened by a poor scoring record since *Euro 96*.

Their harsh exchanges have long been replaced by mutual respect. This was evident when Klinsmann made a video contribution to a spoof *This is Your*

PAST IMPERFECT: SUGAR V KLINSMANN

Klinsmann on Sugar

'He only ever talks about money. He never talks about the game. I would say there is a big question mark over whether Sugar's heart is in the club and in football. The big question is what he likes more, the business or the football.'

Sugar, in a televised interview, produces the shirt that Klinsmann wore in his last performance for Tottenham:

'I wouldn't wash my car with it now. There you are, you can have it if you want it.'

"Berti Vogts [the German manager] is happy with the decision," Klinsmann said yesterday. "He wants me to approach the World Cup with confidence." Sugar added: "It is perfect for both of us."

Klinsmann, speaking in the same Bill Nicholson suite in which he announced his arrival in 1994, said: "I had a fantastic year here. I was made to feel very

comfortable by everybody and you don't forget that. I have felt attached to the club ever since. I feel I am coming back home."

Christmas delays may prevent Klinsmann from making a debut on Boxing Day against Aston Villa and his former nemesis Mark Bosnich but, with Sampdoria eager enough to send a representative to London with Klinsmann yes-

terday, they hope to complete the paperwork for a home debut on Sunday 28 December. That would be against – who else? – Arsenal, who will be without their own talisman, Ian Wright, through suspension.

The deal, which cost Spurs £175,000 plus wages estimated at £30,000-plus a week, is to the end of the season, but talks about extending it may take place in the spring. "I'm not getting any younger," said the 33-year-old Klinsmann, but he added, referring to a knee injury which kept him out for two and a half months: "I am fit."

Pleat left the club under a cloud in 1987. He had taken a thrilling side to the FA Cup final and third place only to be forced to resign after it was reported that he had been

stopped for kerb-crawling. He will be director of football responsible for youth development, scouting and contracts. He will doubtless advise Gross with transfers but will not be involved in team selection or coaching the first team.

THREE THAT WORKED...

VINNIE JONES

If ever a player could call a club his spiritual home, it is Jones. Wimbledon plucked the tattooed hod-carrier from obscurity in 1988, and, after his three-year sabbatical with Leeds, Sheffield United and Chelsea, restored him to the fold five years ago. Reacquaintance has been mutually advantageous; his clenched fist and resilience keep the Crazy Gang spirit alive, while the status he enjoys within Sam Hammam's "family" overrides his technical shortcomings.

IAN RUSH

One sensed that Rush might not be suited to foreign football when, not long after earning Liverpool £3.2m from Juventus in 1987, he said that living in Italy was "like being in another country". One unhappy year later, Kenny Dalglish reinstated him at Anfield for £2.7m. The Welsh whippet may have been less prolific second time round – 90 goals in 245 games against 139 in his first spell – but gave great service before leaving in 1996.

STANLEY MATTHEWS

Matthews was the ultimate in returning heroes – and the most unlikely. Having left Stoke City for Blackpool at the age of 32, amid claims that his transfer would adversely affect production in the pottery industry, the Wizard of Dribble was 46 when Tony Waddington paid £2,500 to bring him home in 1961. Stoke's crowd shot up from 8,000 to nearly 36,000 overnight, and the impetus propelled the club to promotion to the former First Division within two years.

AND THREE THAT DIDN'T

JOHN CHARLES

The only great player Leeds United produced before the Don Revie era, Charles' prowess in either defence or attack meant he commanded a world-record fee of £65,000 when Juventus signed him in 1957. The Gentle Giant won three Italian League medals before Revie paid £53,000 to bring him back after five years. Charles, alas, was heavier and slower than Elland Road remembered him, and played only 11 times before Leeds gratefully accepted Roma's £70,000 bid.

ANDY GRAY

Gray's first full season with Aston Villa after joining for £100,000 from Dundee United brought 29 goals. Four seasons later, after falling foul of Ron Saunders, he fetched £1.5m from Wolves, though it was with Everton that his selflessness and bravery reaped their greatest reward. Graham Turner re-signed him for Villa for £150,000 in 1985, but he was a spent force, scoring only five goals in 54 League games before winding down towards a second coming on Sky.

CHARLIE NICHOLAS

Nicholas was the original svelte Celt in his first spell with Glasgow's greens, plundering 79 goals in 95 games between 1980-83. After an ill-advised £750,000 transfer to Arsenal, followed by a move to Aberdeen, he lost much of his early flamboyance. He returned to Celtic for £450,000 in 1990, but he was bulkier and unable to accelerate away from defenders. Nor was the shambolic state of the club he had always worshipped conducive to a productive reunion.

Profiles by Phil Shaw

Better football on menu as Smith takes over Norwich

Celebrity cook Delia Smith, who once said that "cooking and football are the two most important subjects in the country," yesterday became the new majority shareholder at First Division Norwich City.

Together with husband Michael Wynn-Jones, she has bought the 42 per cent shareholding of the 84-year-old club president, Geoffrey Watling, for an undisclosed sum.

Smith, who joined the Carrow Road board with her hus-

band last year, said she was delighted to be increasing her involvement with the Canaries.

"It's extremely exciting and gives us an awful lot of pleasure," she said. "I think everyone wants to give the talents they have."

Though Smith is thought to have amassed a private fortune of around £17m, she professes to have no business expertise.

"If you showed me a profit and balance sheet I wouldn't know which way to hold it up,"

she said, but Wynn-Jones said he and his wife intended to make use of their increased power. "Obviously it does throw a lot more responsibility our way," he said.

Barry Lockwood will remain as chairman but Wynn-Jones said he and his wife intended to make use of their increased power. "Obviously it does throw a lot more responsibility our way," he said.

said. "It's a way of getting more involved with the club. What we have realised in a year are the problems and the challenges."

"The more you get to know about the club and football in general the more and more daunting it gets. We do look at this as a chance to have an authoritative voice."

Besides her football-related activities, Smith, who lives in Stowmarket, Suffolk, runs two large companies and works as an advisor to Sainsbury's and

British Airways. It was these commitments, as well as an imminent 20-part cookery series on television, that led her to turn down Mr Blair's offer of a peerage following Labour's victory in the General Election.

Since she became involved in Norwich City, there have been a few changes, such as a Bruce Oldfield-designed strip. Whether the players can look forward to a new nutritional regime is another matter.

— Chris Maume

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3498, Tuesday 23 December By Velord Monday's notation

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ACROSS

9 Medium's record with unknown type of therapy (9)
10 The safety device like this would be a high cost (5)
11 Old speaker in Devon resort (7)
12 How slam can be made? This is the current rule (4,3)
13 Made protest that's material (5)
14 Took no steps to move on frozen pond? (3,6)
16 High flier? (3,5,7)
19 Help to back reviewer, showing discrimination (9)
21 I call for changes in bush (5)
22 Has inclination, in church, to remove defilement (7)

DOWN

1 Turf out of ecologist's electoral division? (10)
2 Rode to me, cycling; this could tell the distance (8)
3 Independent feature on St Simon's viewpoint? (9)
4 Parent dismissed Queen as a lover of wood? (4)
5 It gets under one's skin and gives one the needle (10)
6 Side taking take-off from machine treating hair etc? (8)
7 A Marine allowed to have an identifying mark (6)
8 Cold cut to sink your teeth into (4)
14 One close to pour miser dying? (2,8)
15 Make correction about food being wonderful (10)
17 One phoned in clamour to give a diatribe (8)
18 50% support for player (4,4)
20 Acid's very good, has the natural response (6)
21 Representative, say, coming in behind time (6)
22 Bloke's conservative by chance (4)
23 The point of a reduced train fare (4)

Television mogul holds key to Lewis v Holyfield fight

Boxing's long-awaited heavyweight showdown between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield may happen as soon as April – if the sport's television paymasters can cut a deal. Ken Jones reports.

The key to a contest between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis that would produce an undisputed heavyweight champion is held by Seth Abraham, the chief executive of Time Warner Sports and its cable subsidiary, Home Box Office.

The result of negotiations that lasted for 14 hours at the offices of Holyfield's promoter, Don King, on Sunday, and involved five attorneys, is that Holyfield will put up the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation championships against Lewis's World Boxing Council version – if Abraham thinks that the fight is financially viable.

Bearing in mind that Holyfield would be paid \$25m

against the \$12m Lewis has agreed to, Abraham must investigate the possibility that the contest would be attractive enough at a price of around \$50m to bring in a million subscribers.

This was hinted at yesterday when Lewis's principal promoter, Pamos Eliades, said: "We've agreed to terms and entered into a contract. Now Don King [whose cut would come out of Holyfield's purse] has to agree with Holyfield to accept the balance available."

More important is the possibility that, in order to get the contest, HBO might be prepared to take a loss based on the fact that its chief rivals, Showtime, dropped around \$10m on the recent contest between Holyfield and Michael Moorer. The experience emphasised that Holyfield is still not a big attraction, while Lewis has yet to become big box office.

A date, 25 April, has been set tentatively for the fight to take place in Las Vegas, although pending negotiations with three casinos, Caesars Palace, the MGM Grand and the Mirage, could bring it forward a week.

Eliades added that the winner would defend against Mike Tyson later this year if an indefinite suspension imposed on the former undisputed champion for biting Holyfield's ear last June is lifted after 12 months.

The difficulty there is that Tyson is locked into a contract with Showtime, who are closely associated with King. It means that HBO cannot base their estimate on the notion of pulling in Tyson to fight the winner between Holyfield and Lewis – which would generate more money than any fight in history.

Meanwhile, Lewis is happy with the way things are progressing. "I'm pleased that a deal has been done," he said yesterday, "but, like all things in boxing, I'll believe it's happening when I stand face to face with Holyfield in Las Vegas."

In fact, Holyfield could still decide that it makes more sense to take a mandatory defence against Henry Akinwande, rather than risk the \$40m he could get for a third fight against Tyson.

Lookin' great in stockings

I seek you in the pub. I long for you at home. You'd be a great stocking filler. If I find you this Christmas, your top will be off before Boxing Day. Reply Box 2425.

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